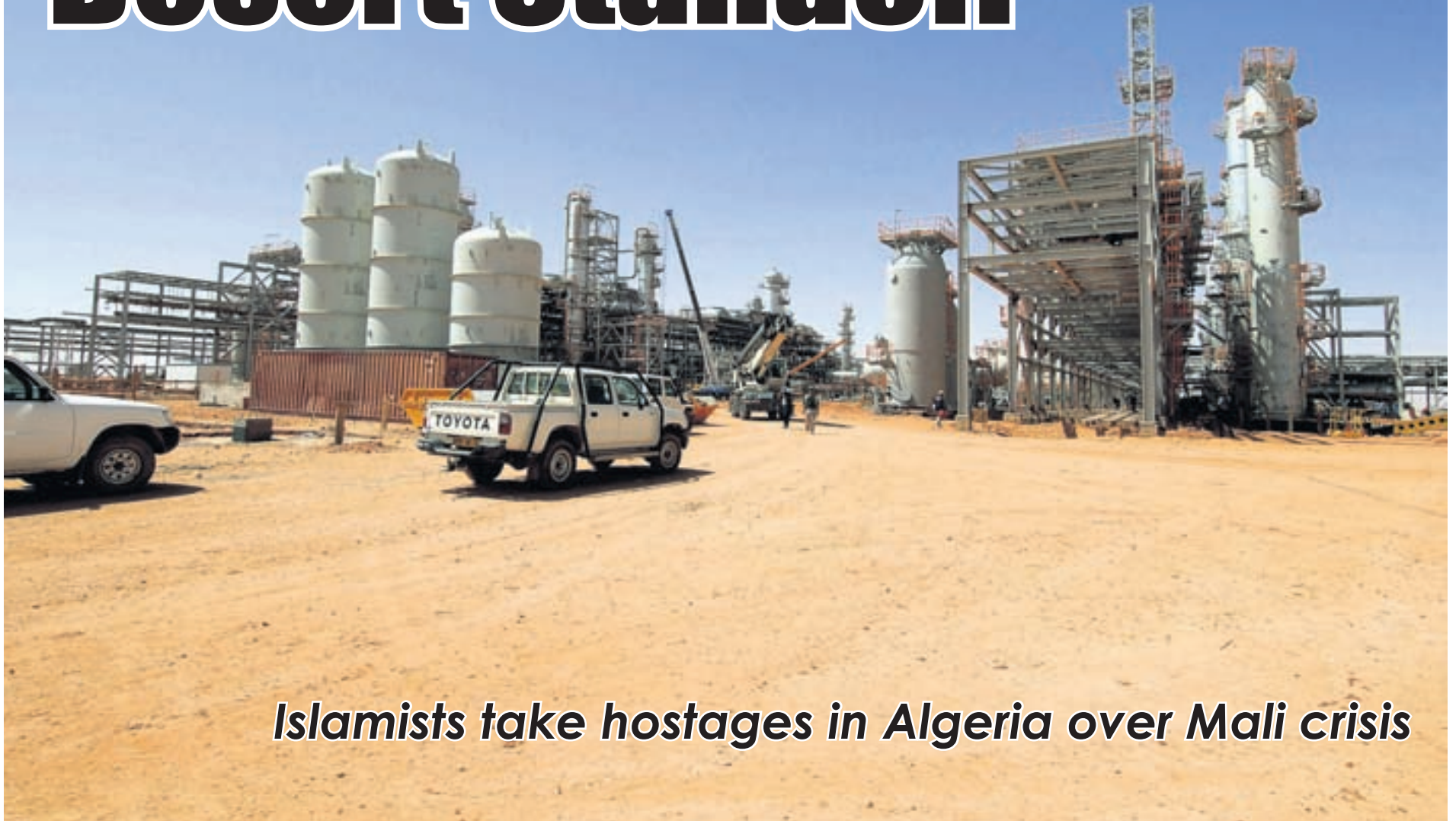


# Desert Standoff



## *Islamists take hostages in Algeria over Mali crisis*

Photo shows the Ain Amenas gas field in Algeria, where Islamist militants raided and took dozens of hostages Wednesday Jan. 16, 2013, in what is being called a direct response to the French offensive in the country of Mali. A militant group that claimed responsibility said 41 foreigners, including seven Americans, were being held hostage after the assault.

**AOMAR OUALI**  
**PAUL SCHEMM**  
**Associated Press**

**ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)** — In a desert standoff deep in the Sahara, the Algerian army ringed a natural gas complex where Islamist militants hunkered down with dozens of hostages Wednesday night after a rare attack that appeared to be the first violent shock wave from the French intervention in Mali. A militant group that claimed responsibility said 41 foreigners, including seven Americans, were being held after the assault on one of oil-rich Algeria's energy facilities, 800 miles from the capital of Algiers

and 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) from the coast. Two foreigners were killed. The group claiming responsibility said the attack was in revenge for Algeria's support of France's military operation against al-Qaida-linked rebels in neighboring Mali. The U.S. defense secretary called it a "terrorist act." The militants appeared to have no escape, with troops surrounding the complex and army helicopters clattering overhead. The group — called Katibat Moulathamine or the Masked Brigade — phoned a Mauritanian news outlet to say one of its affiliates

had carried out the operation at the Ain Amenas gas field, and that France should end its intervention in Mali to ensure the safety of the hostages. BP, the Norwegian company Statoil and the Algerian state oil company Sonatrach, operate the gas field. A Japanese company, JGC Corp, provides services for the facility as well. In Rome, U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta declared that the U.S. "will take all necessary and proper steps" to deal with the attack in Algeria. He would not detail what such steps might be but condemned the action as "ter-

rorist attack" and likened it to al-Qaida activities in Pakistan, Afghanistan and in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. Algeria's top security official, Interior Minister Daho Ould Kabila, said that "security forces have surrounded the area and cornered the terrorists, who are in one wing of the complex's living quarters." He said one Briton and one Algerian were killed in the attack, while a Norwegian and two other Britons were among the six wounded. "We reject all negotiations with the group, which is holding some 20 hostages from several nationalities," Kabila said on national

television, raising the specter of a possible armed assault to try to free the hostages. The head of a catering company working on the base told the French Journal de Dimanche that helicopters were flying over the complex and the army waited outside. There were even reports of clashes between the two sides and a member of the militant group told the Mauritanian news outlet the Islamists had already repelled one assault by Algerian soldiers late Wednesday night.

(AP Photo/Kjetil Alsvik)

**Continued on Page 3**



## Mali:

## French land assault presses north for direct combat

BABA AHMED  
R. CALLIMACHI  
Associated Press

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) —

a land assault that was to put them in direct combat with al-Qaida-linked fighters "in one to 72 hours,"

said Islamist extremists had taken over their homes and were preventing other people from leaving. They

the mud-walled neighborhoods to avoid being targeted by the French.

"They have beards. And they wear boubous (a flowing robe). No one approaches them. Everyone is afraid," said Ibrahim Komnotogo, who was out of town when the militants seized Diabaly over the weekend but kept in contact by telephone with other residents.

In apparent retaliation for the French offensive, the same group controlling northern Mali occupied a natural gas complex in neighboring Algeria, taking dozens of people hostage, including Americans. Two foreigners were killed.

French ground operations in Mali began overnight, France's military chief of staff, Adm. Edouard Guillaud, said on Europe 1 television Wednesday. He stressed that French infantry units "will be fighting di-

rectly in the coming hours." Armored vehicles loaded with French troops were seen heading toward Niono, a town 340 kilometers (210 miles) northeast of the capital, Bamako. Some 70 kilometers (45 miles) northeast of Niono lies Diabaly, with a population of 35,000. Over the weekend, dozens of rebel vehicles cut off the road to Diabaly, seizing the town and its strategic military camp. French warplanes have since carried out airstrikes on the camp. Oumar Ould Hamaha, whose fighters are believed to be among those who seized Diabaly, said that a convoy of armored French vehicles attempted to enter the town to take it back. He said the Islamists repelled the French after an intense and close combat.

"I confirm that France came in by land, but they failed. ... □



French military vehicles drive to the north of Mali, at an undisclosed location, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013. French troops pressed northward in Mali toward territory occupied by radical Islamists on Wednesday, military officials said, announcing the start of a land assault that will put soldiers in direct combat "within hours."

(AP Photo/Arnaud Roine, ECPAD)

French soldiers pressed north in Mali territory occupied by radical Islamists on Wednesday, launching

military officials said. Their presumed destination was the town of Diabaly, where fleeing residents

said the militants were melting into the population and moving only in small groups on streets in

## Morsi tries to defuse Jewish uproar

HAMZA HENDAWI  
SARAH EL DEEB  
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's Islamist president sought Wednesday to defuse Washington's anger over his past remarks urging hatred of Jews and calling Zionists "pigs" and "bloodsuckers," telling visiting U.S. senators that his comments were a denunciation of Israeli policies.

Both sides appear to want to get beyond the flap: Mohammed Morsi needs America's help in repairing a rapidly sliding economy, and Washington can't afford to shun a figure who has emerged as a model of an Islamist leader who maintains his country's ties with Israel.

U.S. Sen. John McCain said a congressional delegation he led that met with Morsi expressed to him their "strong disapproval" about his 2010 comments. The delegation and Morsi had a "constructive discussion" about the remarks, he told reporters.

Still, despite calls by some in Washington to rein in aid to Egypt's Islamist-led government, McCain said the delegation will press in Congress for approval of

a \$4.8 billion loan.

The flap was a new twist in Morsi's attempts to reconcile his background as a veteran of the Muslim Brotherhood — a ve-



Republican Sen. John McCain from Arizona takes a question during a press conference for a delegation from the United States Senate, in Cairo, Egypt, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013.

(AP Photo/Nasser Nasser)

some \$480 million in new assistance to Cairo.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, also in the delegation, warned that "the Egyptian economy is going to collapse if something is not done quickly." He urged Morsi to finalize a repeatedly delayed deal with the International Monetary Fund for

hemently anti-Israeli and anti-U.S. group — and the requirements of his role as head of state, which include keeping the strategic relationship with Washington.

Morsi's remarks came from a mix of speeches he made in 2010 when he was a leading Brotherhood fig-

ure. The remarks were revived when an Egyptian TV show aired them to highlight and mock Morsi's current policies.

On Tuesday, the White House denounced the comments as "deeply offensive."

In the video, Morsi refers to "Zionists" as "bloodsuckers who attack Palestinians" as well as "the descendants of apes and pigs." He says Egyptians should nurse their children on "hatred for them: for Zionists, for Jews. They must be breast-fed hatred." He also calls President Barack Obama a liar.

Morsi, who came to office in June, told the visiting U.S. delegation on Wednesday that the remarks were taken out of context, aimed at criticizing Israeli policies, and not Jews, according to presidential spokesman Yasser Ali.

Morsi told them distinction must be made between criticism of what he called the "racist" policies of the Israelis against the Palestin-

ians and insults against the Jewish faith.

Morsi also told them the remarks were part of a speech against Israeli aggression in Gaza and "assured them of his respect for monotheistic religions, freedom of belief and the practice of religions," Ali said.

Despite the explanation, Morsi went beyond attacking "Zionists" to directly refer to Jews and used traditional anti-Semitic slurs like "pigs."

But the explanation was a rare instance when an Islamist was forced to address criticism of what is routine rhetoric for the Brotherhood. They and other Islamists often engage in tirades against Israel, sometimes trying to stick to references to "Zionism," the founding ideology of Israel, but often slipping into attacks on Jews.

The Brotherhood's leader, Mohammed Badie, recently accused Jews of corrupting the world and slaughtering the Palestinians. □



## Q&A ON THE NEWS

© 2013 Cox Newspapers

**Q:** Can you please tell me why we need another inauguration ceremony for President Barack Obama? He had a grand ceremony four years ago when he was first elected, which was fine. With our tough economy, I think it is a waste of money.

-- Michael Larson, Tucker, Ga.

**A:** The tradition of a second inauguration dates to George Washington in 1793, and Obama's second one will be smaller than his first in 2009. He will, as required by law, take the oath of office on Jan. 20, which is Sunday, and the inauguration will be held Monday, which is the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday. Between 600,000 and 800,000 people are expected to attend, down from 2 million for the first inauguration, and the festivities have been reduced to three days, instead of four, in reference to the nation's struggling economy, The Associated Press reported.

There are two inaugural balls this year, down from 10 in 2009. It's the fewest by any president since Dwight Eisenhower's first term in 1953, according to Reuters. As of Jan. 4, more than 400 donors, including AT&T and Microsoft, have made contributions to help fund events surrounding the inaugural, and Obama's inauguration committee offered four types of VIP packages to donors, the AP reported. It raised a record \$53 million for his first one.

**Q:** News reports said that John Boehner killed the original Superstorm Sandy aid package because of all the pork it contained. What were some of these projects and what they would have cost?

-- Bruce Coppedge, Suwanee, Ga.

**A:** Boehner, the speaker of the House, called off a vote on a \$60 billion Sandy aid package because it was packed with other projects. Those included \$150 million for fisheries across the country, \$100 million to repair Head Start facilities, \$8 million for cars for Homeland Security and Justice departments and \$2 million to repair the roof at the Smithsonian, among other projects, according to published reports.

Congress approved a \$9.7 billion aid package on Jan. 4 and the House passed an additional \$50.7 billion in aid on Jan. 15.

**Q:** How much did President Barack Obama's Christmas vacation to Hawaii cost? I understand that Air Force One costs \$180,000 an hour to fly.

-- Sherrill Lang, Tyrone, Ga.

**A:** The Obamas' 20-day Hawaii vacation -- from Dec. 17 to Jan. 6 -- cost somewhere between \$4 million and \$7 million, according to published reports. The largest expense is the use of Air Force One, which costs \$179,750 an hour to operate, according to a Congressional Research Service report published in May. The Hawaii Reporter -- an online news journal -- reported in November that a one-way trip from Washington to Hawaii takes nine hours, which comes to a cost of \$1.6 million, or \$3.2 million for a round-trip for Air Force One. The president took two round-trips from Washington to Hawaii on this vacation, flying back for last-minute negotiations during the fiscal cliff crisis before returning to Hawaii on New Year's Day.

The Hawaii Reporter reported the Obamas stay in a beachfront home in Kailua on Oahu but pay for the cost with personal money. □

## Islamists take hostages in Algeria

Continued from front

It was not immediately possible to account for the discrepancies in the number of reported hostages. Their identities also were not clear, but Ireland announced that they included a 36-year-old married Irish man. Japan, Britain and the U.S. said their citizens were taken. A Norwegian woman said her husband called her saying that he had been taken hostage.

Hundreds of Algerians work at the plant and were also captured in the attack, but the Algerian state news agency reported they were gradually released

firmed that "U.S. citizens were among the hostages."

The caller to the Nouakchott Information Agency, which often carries announcements from extremist groups, said the kidnapping was carried out by "Those Who Signed in Blood," a group created to attack countries participating in the offensive against Islamist groups in Mali.

The Masked Brigade was formed by Belmoktar, a one-eyed Algerian who recently declared he was leaving the terror network's Algerian branch, al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, to create his own group. He said at the time he would

our conflict," Oumar Ould Hamaha told The Associated Press by telephone Wednesday night from an undisclosed location.

French President Francois Hollande launched the surprise operation in Mali, a former French colony in West Africa, on Friday, hoping to stop the al-Qaida-linked and other Islamist extremists whom he believes pose a danger to the world.

Further kidnappings could well be on the horizon, warned Sajjan Gohel, the international security director for the Asia-Pacific Foundation.

"The chances are that this may not be a one-off event, that there could be



**JGC Corporation's Takeshi Endo answers reporters' questions following Wednesday's attack at a natural gas complex in Algeria which involves the company's workers, at its headquarters in Yokohama, near Tokyo Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013.**

unharmful Wednesday. The Algerian minister said it seemed the militants were hoping to negotiate their departure from the area -- a notion he rejected. He also dismissed theories that the militants had come from Libya, a mere 60 miles (100 kilometers) away, or from Mali, more than 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) away.

Kabila said the roughly 20 well armed gunmen were from Algeria itself, operating under orders from Mokhtar Belmoktar, al-Qaida's strongman in the Sahara. In Washington, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland con-

firmly maintain ties with the central organization based in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The name of his group could be a reference to the nomadic Tuareg inhabitants of the Sahara, known for masking their faces with blue veils.

A close associate of Belmoktar blamed the West for France's recent air and ground intervention against Islamist fighters in Mali.

"It's the United Nations that gave the green light to this intervention and all Western countries are now going to pay a price. We are now globalizing

other attempts in Africa -- especially north and western Africa -- to directly target foreign interests," he said. "It's unclear as to what fate these individuals may meet, whether these terrorists are going to want a ransom or whether they'll utilize this for propaganda purposes."

Wednesday's attack in Algeria began with an ambush on a bus carrying employees from the massive gas plant to the nearby airport but the attackers were driven off, according to the Algerian government, which said three vehicles of heavily armed men were involved. □



# Obama lays tough gun law proposals on the table

MICHAEL D. SHEAR

PETER BAKER

© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON — Four days before taking the oath of office, President Barack Obama on Wednesday staked the beginning of his second term on an uphill quest to pass the broadest gun control legislation in a generation.

In the aftermath of the Connecticut school massacre, Obama vowed to rally public opinion to press a reluctant Congress to ban military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, expand background checks and toughen gun-trafficking laws. Recognizing that the legislative fight could be long and difficult, the president also took immediate steps by issuing a series of executive orders intended to reduce gun violence.

Surrounded by children who wrote him letters seeking curbs on guns, Obama committed himself to a high-profile and politically volatile campaign behind proposals assembled by Vice President Joe Biden

that will test the administration's strength heading into the next four years. The first big push of Obama's second term, then, will come on an issue that was not even on his to-do list on Election Day when voters renewed his lease on the presidency.

"I will put everything I've got into this," Obama said, "and so will Joe."

The emotionally charged ceremony, attended by family members of those killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., reflected a decision by the White

House to seize on public outrage to challenge the political power of the National Rifle Association and other forces that have successfully fought new gun laws for decades.

The White House is planning a multifaceted effort to sell its plans, including

speeches by the president and vice president and concerted lobbying by interest groups to influence several dozen lawmakers from both parties seen as critical to passage. The White House created a Web page with video testimonials from victims of gun violence and a sign-up for supporters to help advocate the president's plan.

"I tell you, the only way we can change is if the American people demand it," Obama said. "And by the way, that doesn't just mean from certain parts of the country. We're going to need voices in those areas, in those congressional districts where the tradition of gun ownership is strong, to speak up and to say this is important. It can't just be the usual suspects."

The NRA made clear that it was ready for a fight. Even before the president's speech, it broadcast a provocative video calling Obama an "elitist hypocrite" for opposing more armed guards in schools while his daughters had Secret Service protection. After the speech the group said it would work to secure schools, fix the mental health system and prosecute criminals but criticized the president's other proposals.

"Attacking firearms and ignoring children is not a solution to the crisis we face as a nation," the NRA said in a statement. "Only honest, law-abiding gun owners will be affected, and our children will remain vulnerable to the inevitability of more tragedy."

Obama's plan included four major legislative proposals and 23 executive actions that he initiated on his own authority to bolster enforcement of existing laws, improve the nation's database of background checks and otherwise make it harder for criminals and people with mentally illness to get guns.

Obama asked Congress to reinstate and strengthen a ban on the sale and production of assault weapons that passed in 1994 and expired in 2004. □



President Barack Obama, flanked by children who wrote him letters about gun violence in the weeks following the Newtown shooting, and Vice President Joe Biden at a news conference where he signed 23 executive actions on gun control, at the White House, in Washington, Jan. 16, 2013. (Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

cOndominium  
eagle beach

the perfect beach is Only the beginning...

selling now...  
**20**  
exclusive condominiums

224 J.E. Irausquin Blvd.  
oranjestad • aruba  
297.587-5300  
297.732-0000  
sales@O-eaglebeacharuba.com  
www.O-eaglebeacharuba.com



## Rescuers free woman wedged into 2 buildings



A woman is rescued from being trapped inside a wall in SW Portland, Ore., Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013. (AP Photo/Brent Wojahn)

NIGEL DUARA

Associated Press

**PORTLAND, Oregon (AP)** — U.S. firefighters cut through concrete and used a soapy lubricant to free a woman who fell and became stuck in a narrow opening between two buildings Wednesday.

The woman spent about four hours in the tiny space. Broadcast footage of the rescue effort showed her emerging, clenching her fists and shouting, "Oh, my God!"

Firefighters said they hadn't gotten a clear explanation of how the woman fell. Lt. Rich Chatman of the Portland fire department in Oregon said she had been seen smoking or walking on the roof of a two-story building.

The woman was wedged about 4 feet (1.2 meters) above the ground before rescuers installed braces to support her. Firefighters turned on a portable heater to keep her warm in near-freezing temperatures and dropped an air bag into the opening to slightly spread the walls.

"She was in good spirits," Chatman said. "We just tried to reassure her ... we weren't going home without her."

After rescuers cut a window-size opening in the concrete wall, Chatman climbed in to help apply the soapy substance. The woman wiggled toward the hole as the rescue team pulled on her.

She appeared to be in good health, fire Lt. Damon Simmons said. Her name was not released. □

# New York school bus drivers go on strike

MARC SANTORA

© 2013 New York Times

**NEW YORK** — The first strike of New York City school bus drivers in three decades began Wednesday, leaving more than 100,000 children and their parents to negotiate new ways to class on a soggy, cold winter morning.

As anxious parents worried how long the strike would last, children boarded subways, hailed taxis and shared rides in cars while city officials warned that the labor dispute could last for some time.

"It was not easy this morning," schools Chancellor Dennis M. Walcott said at an afternoon news conference.

Still, he said, the average attendance at schools across the city was 88.5 percent, down only one percentage point from the average attendance on any given January day.

But some schools were hit harder than others, with those primarily serving special-needs children and

not located near public transportation having more than a 20 percent drop in

the strike was close to an end. "This strike is about job guarantees that the union



Local 1811 President Michael Cordiello strikes with fellow employees of Amboy Bus Co., Inc. in New York, Jan. 16, 2013. The first strike of New York City school bus drivers in three decades began Wednesday, leaving more than 100,000 children and their parents to negotiate new ways to class on a soggy, cold winter morning.

(Robert Stolarik/The New York Times)

attendance in some cases. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said that efforts by some strikers to disrupt alternative transportation methods were "disgraceful," and during an afternoon news conference he offered no indication that

just can't have," Bloomberg said.

While most of the city's 1.1 million students walk or rely on public transportation to get to school, the 152,000 students who rely on school buses include 54,000 special-needs children.

"These are not kids that it is easy for them to move to mass transit," Bloomberg said Wednesday morning during an appearance on Channel 5.

Across the city, parents hustled through the rain with children by their sides, with normal daily routines in turmoil and widespread concern about being late for their own jobs.

"I have to go to work; now I'm late," said Catalina Torres, 51, as she dropped her three grandchildren at school.

Torres, who works as a teacher's assistant, thought about the prospect of the strike lasting more than a week (the last one, in 1979, lasted 13 weeks) and said simply, "Oh my."

The Education Department said 3,000 bus routes out of approximately 7,700 total routes ran Wednesday. While only 11 percent of the routes serving general education students were running, some 38 percent of the routes for special-needs children were still in service. □

## FBI makes arrests in waste-hauling business

JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN

© 2013 New York Times

Nearly 30 people connected to the waste hauling and disposal business were arrested Wednesday morning on racketeering and other charges, a spokeswoman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation said.

Many of the arrests occurred in New York City and suburban Westchester County, said the FBI spokeswoman, Kelly Langmesser, adding that the charges included extortion and loan-sharking.

Some of the people arrested had previously been banned from the waste industry by regulators wary of their organized crime connections, a law enforcement official briefed on the investigation said. But the charges allege that those people had returned to the industry through the use of front organizations who acted on their be-



A suspect of extortion and embezzling is taken into FBI custody in New York, Jan. 16, 2013. Nearly 30 people connected to the waste hauling and disposal business were arrested Wednesday morning on racketeering and other charges, a spokeswoman for the FBI said.

(John Marshall Mantel/The New York Times)

half, said the official, who was granted anonymity because the charges had not yet been filed in court publicly.

The official added that some of those who were arrested had ties to the Genovese, Gambino and Luchese crime families.

Among the charges are allegations that at least one of the defendants stole heavy equipment from a competitor. □





## THE PELICAN NEST

*Bar & Seafood Grill*

*"For the ultimate... Sunset Dinner experience"...*

**Present this ad & enjoy a FREE CEVICHE per coupe with your 3 course meal.**

The best of Palm Beach, located on the Caribbean Ocean amid turquoise waters and fresh sunny breezes. The menu offers an impressive selection of fresh Seafood, International dishes, a relaxing atmosphere, exclusive seating for dinner and the option while to feed the fish.

Located between Holiday Inn and Playa Linda Resort • [www.pelican-aruba.com](http://www.pelican-aruba.com)



**For reservation call: 5862259**

# Fed survey optimistic on direction of US economy

**MARTIN CRUTSINGER**  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Holiday shopping, strong auto sales and a recovering housing market helped boost the U.S. economy from the middle of November through early January, according to a Federal Reserve survey released Wednesday.

The Fed said 12 of its regional banking districts reported "modest or moderate" growth in the final weeks of 2012.

Of those, only St. Louis said growth had slowed from the previous survey, which covered October through early November.

Consumers increased spending at the end of the year in every district. Auto sales were steady or stronger in 10 districts. Home sales increased in nine districts.

And home building expanded in all but one.

Still, employers in some parts of the country delayed hiring because of uncertainty over the fiscal cliff. Congress and the White House reached a deal on Jan. 1 to prevent sharp income tax increases from hitting most Americans.

But they put off decisions on government spending cuts.

The report, called the Beige Book, provides anecdotal information on economic conditions through Jan. 4. The information collected

by the regional banks will be used as the basis for the Fed's policy discussion at

the Jan. 29-30 meeting. Many economists believe the Fed will take no new

steps at that meeting.

The Fed last month said it planned to keep its key short-term interest rate at a record low even after unemployment falls close to a normal level — which it said might take three more years. And it said it would keep buying \$85 billion a month in Treasuries and mortgage bonds to try to keep borrowing costs low and encourage more spending. The economy has shown some signs of improvement in recent months. But unemployment remains high at 7.8 percent. Job growth has been modest but steady. In December, employers added 155,000 jobs, roughly matching the monthly average in 2011 and 2012. Wage growth has been

weak. But at the same time, consumers are seeing little inflation.

Retail spending grew in December from November, led by higher sales of cars, furniture and clothing. Still, many consumers are likely to pull back on spending at the start of the year because lawmakers and President Barack Obama allowed a two-year reduction in Social Security payroll taxes to lapse.

Most Americans will start seeing less money in their paychecks this month. A person earning \$50,000 a year will see take-home pay shrink by roughly \$1,000 in 2013.

That's likely to slow consumer spending and weigh on overall economic growth. □



Holiday shopping, strong auto sales and a recovering housing market helped boost the U.S. economy from the middle of November through early January, according to a Federal Reserve survey released Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Chris Carlson)

## Dimon's pay to be slashed for trading loss

**CHRISTINA REXRODE**  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — JPMorgan Chase's Chief Executive Jamie Dimon will get his pay cut by half because of a trading loss that cost the bank more than \$6 billion last year and drew sanctions from federal regulators.

The bank, America's biggest by assets, said it would cut Dimon's pay to \$11.5 million for 2012, consisting of \$1.5 million in salary and restricted stock awards of \$10 million. The loss, which

was related to complex investments known as credit derivatives, tarnished the bank's reputation as a scrupulous manager of risk and marked a personal setback for Dimon, a longtime critic of efforts to clamp down on regulatory oversight of major U.S. financial institutions. Dimon appeared twice before Congress to apologize and explain how the losses came about.

The bank released two internal reviews of the matter on the same day that it reported a 55 percent jump in earnings for the fourth quarter of 2012. The bank's board of directors concluded that the loss was "a serious mistake," but it also praised Dimon for his response, which included shutting down the division that was responsible for the loss and getting rid of top managers.

Dimon, speaking on a conference call with reporters,

said the trading loss is "very close to being a non-issue from a trading point" of view, though he also noted that the trading loss could bring the bank more regu-

loss before its full scale was known last year, referring to them as a "tempest in a teapot."

On Monday, the Federal Reserve and the Office of



JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon, head of the largest bank in the United States, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

latory headaches.

"Companies have problems," Dimon said. "The problem embarrassed us. We're fixing it."

Dimon had initially dismissed concerns about the

the Comptroller of the Currency, both bank regulators, slapped sanctions on JPMorgan for the trading loss and ordered it to tighten up its risk management procedures. □

## BENLO CIGARS

Import & Export • We ship all over the world • Tel.: 5863555

Located in the Arowak Garden, next to Salt & Pepper, Paparazzi and Tango Restaurant.

---

*We are specialized in premium Cuban Cigars.*

**Opening hours: Mon. - Sat. 8:30am - 11:00pm**

**Sunday 9:00am - 11:00pm**

---

Depending on purchase, we have discounts starting from 5% up to 20%.

With purchase of \$20 or more 1 FREE CIGAR

**Bring this coupon for your free Cuban Cigar!**



# Michelle Obama faces a fashionable second term

**SAMANTHA CRITCHELL**

**AP Fashion Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Michelle Obama has proven her fashion savvy time and again since she was introduced as the U.S. first lady in a yellow sheath and coat by Isabel Toledo on Inauguration Day 2009 — so much so that we don't discuss it nearly as much as we used to.

Four years ago, there was a daily barrage in the media: Jason Wu gown! J. Crew gloves! Jimmy Choo shoes! It remained that way for months and even years.

There was the Naeem Khan beaded strapless gown for the first state dinner in the Obama White House, and the black racerback dress by Michael Kors worn in her official portrait. Her wardrobe for the Obamas' state visit to England, including the white cross-neck halter gown by Tom Ford she wore to a black-tie event with Queen Elizabeth in London, and the fiery red Alexander McQueen she wore for the state dinner the Obamas hosted for China, generated news around the globe.

Even more recently, her pink Tracy Reese dress was

practically an honored guest at the Democratic National Convention in September.

One of the moments so many are eagerly anticipating on Monday, when her husband enters a second term, is when she'll emerge in her gown for the inaugural balls.

But she's figured out a way to largely move the focus from her style to her substance.

"What's really interesting about the first lady is that she's been able to incorporate the fact that she's stylish into a much larger persona," says Ariel Foxman, managing editor of InStyle magazine.

In the early going, there was intense focus on what she'd wear "because we hadn't seen a first lady who had such an innate style and sense of color — and great arms," Foxman adds. "It's been exciting to see a first lady embracing fashion by remaining consistently interesting and diverse in her fashion choices, and in doing that, she's been able to draw attention elsewhere."

In an age of the overused term "style icon," Obama is one of the few modern



**First lady Michelle Obama waves to delegates at the DNC in Charlotte, N.C. Obama's dress was designed by Tracy Reese. Obama has proven her fashion savvy time and time again since she was introduced to the country as first lady on Inauguration Day 2009. In the past four years she has adeptly walked the line between directional fashionista and everywoman.**

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

women to deserve it. In the past four years she has adeptly walked — usually in kitten heels or ballet flats

— the line between directional fashionista and everywoman.

She has a pretty deep tool

box and she knows how to use it, says Kevan Hall, a Los Angeles-based designer. "Every designer wants to dress her," he says. (She has worn his label.)

"Just like any woman, she wants to look pretty, and I think she's having fun with it. It must be fun to be a girl with a big White House closet," Hall says.

She looks comfortable in clothes that can be a little edgy, and Hall says women find that inspiring.

Foxman describes Obama as a working mom who has those favorite go-to pieces: the sleeveless dresses, cardigans, capri pants, chunky jewelry, flat shoes and waist-nipping belts.

It's nice to see that she often wears the same pieces, finding new ways to mix and match them, Hall says. The fashion industry is looking forward to another term, giving another chance for her to wear a variety of designer names and brands and call attention to new designers.

"It's a big business in this country," Foxman says. "We're waiting to see who she can pluck for obscurity on the inaugural night like she did with Jason Wu four years ago." □

# Salazar to vacate Obama's interior department

**MICHAEL D. SHEAR**

**© 2013 New York Times**

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar will leave President Barack Obama's Cabinet by March, creating another opening for the president to fill as he begins his second term, according to a senior administration official.

Salazar, a former senator from Colorado, was part of Obama's original Cabinet. As the head of the interior department, he was the president's top adviser on issues involving open space, parks and drilling.

After the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, Salazar was in charge of inquiries into the regulation of oil companies by the Minerals Management Service.

The Denver Post first reported Salazar's departure.



**Interior Secretary Ken Salazar at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building near the White House in Washington, Jan. 16, 2013. Salazar will leave President Barack Obama's cabinet by March, creating another opening for the president to fill as he begins his second term.**

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

Salazar received some criticism following the oil spill from environmentalists who said the agency was too slow in responding to the crisis of oil gushing into the Gulf. He famously said in interviews that "we have our boot on their neck to make sure they get the job done."

In an interview during the oil spill, Salazar defended his actions, saying, "I feel good about what I'm doing, and I'm very confident, and I'm very resolute in our ability to get the job done, and I feel very good about my relationship with President Obama."

In the years following the spill, Salazar pushed for greater regulation of oil drilling, often clashing with Republicans in Congress who had pushed for an expansion of oil exploration. □



<b>NOW SERVING BREAKFAST</b> <b>BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER</b>		<b>FREE DELIVERY OVER \$40</b> FOR HI AND LOW RISE HOTEL DISTRICT - INCLUDING THE BEACH!	<b>TEL 5863604</b>
<b>ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES</b> <b>\$6.99</b> 	<b>2 EGGS, TOAST</b> <b>\$4.49</b> 	 <b>5 Burgers Aruba</b> 	
<b>FREE COFFEE</b> <b>UNLIMITED REFILLS WITH ANY BREAKFAST ENTREE</b>			
<b>OPEN DAILY - 8:00 A.M. - 10:00 ISH</b> LOCATED BEHIND SEÑOR FROGS, ACROSS FROM THE RADISSON HOTEL Serving breakfast from 8:00 am til 12:00 noon			<b>BURGERS HANDPRESSED / DAILY FRESH CUT FRIES!</b>

## Boeing 787 'Dreamliner' jets grounded in Japan, US

E. KURTENBACH  
YURI KAGEYAMA  
Associated Press

**TOKYO (AP)** — Japan's two biggest airlines and the U.S. aviation agency grounded more than half the Boeing 787s in use around the world after an emergency landing of one of the jets exposed a battery fire risk in the technologically advanced aircraft. The 787 that landed Wednesday had been leaking electrolyte and burn marks were found around the main battery, located in an electrical room below the cockpit, according

to All Nippon Airways. The domestic flight landed at Takamatsu airport in western Japan after a cockpit message showed battery problems and a burning smell was detected in the cockpit and cabin. The 787, known as the Dreamliner, is Boeing's newest jet, and the company is counting heavily on its success. Since its launch after delays of more than three years, the plane has been plagued by a series of problems including a battery fire and fuel leaks. Japan's ANA and Japan Air-

lines are major customers for the jet and among the first to fly it.

Japan's transport ministry said it received notices from ANA, which operates 17 of the jets, and Japan Airlines, which has seven, that all their 787s would not be flying. The grounding

their family members so much concern," said ANA Senior Executive Vice President Osamu Shinobe.

Boeing said it was working around the clock with investigators.

"We are confident the 787 is safe, and we stand behind its overall integrity,"

planes," Sobie said.

"We saw it with other airplane types, like the A380 but the issues with the A380 were different," he said.

Japan's transport ministry categorized Wednesday's problem as a "serious incident" that could have led to an accident, and sent



In this photo taken by a passenger and distributed by Japan's Kyodo News, passengers leave an All Nippon Airways Boeing 787 after it made an emergency landing at Takamatsu airport in Takamatsu, Kagawa Prefecture, western Japan, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013.

(AP Photo/Kyodo News)

was done voluntarily by the airlines.

In Washington, the Federal Aviation Administration was temporarily requiring U.S. carriers to stop flying 787s. United Airlines has six of the jets and is the only U.S. carrier flying the model, but aviation authorities in other countries usually follow the lead of the country where the manufacturer is based. ANA executives apologized, bowing deeply at a hastily called news conference in Tokyo.

"We are very sorry to have caused passengers and

Jim McNerney, company chairman, president and CEO said in a statement.

The earliest manufactured jets of any new aircraft usually have problems and airlines run higher risks in flying them first, said Brendan Sobie, Singapore-based chief analyst at CAPA-Center for Aviation. Since about half the 787 fleet is in Japan, more problems are cropping up there.

"There are always teething problems with new aircraft and airlines often are reluctant to be the launch customer of any new air-

officials for further checks to Takamatsu airport.

Kyodo News agency quoted transport ministry investigator Hideyo Kosugi as saying that electrolyte from the plane's main battery had leaked through the electrical room floor to the exterior of the aircraft. Boeing, the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration were sending representatives to work with the Japanese government on the investigation, NTSB spokeswoman Kelly Nantel said. □



*The Promenade* Restaurant

**SPECIAL**

**First Course**

CAJUN BEEF SALAD  
tossed with olives, onions, paprika and chili sauce

SEAFOOD COCKTAIL  
with a pink yoghurt cocktail sauce

ESCARGOT A LA CREME  
creamy garlic sauce with fresh mushrooms

GARDEN SALAD BOULANGERE  
dressed with your choice of dressing

**Second Course**

SOUP OF THE DAY  
home made

**Third Course**

STEAK DIANE  
with sauteed mushrooms tomatoes and herbs

PICCATA MILANAISE  
served on a bed of pasta with parmesan

CHICKEN FLORENTINE  
baked stuffed with creamed spinach

PLAIN OR STUFFED GROUPER  
stuffed with seafood thermidor

**Fourth Course**

CHOCOLATE MOUSSE  
PINEAPPLE SOUFFLE  
ICE CREAM

\*\*\*\*\*

\$ 24.00 plus Service Charge

In combination with coupons will be a surcharge of \$4.00

**FOR RESERVATION**  **583-8899**  
*L.G. Smith Blvd. 160 near the low rise Hotels*







*Celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with YOU!*  
*Present this Ad receive \$20 discount per couple*

- Champagne Brunch
- Sunset Cruise
- Sail & Snorkel
- Beach & Cave Tour
- Wet'n Wild- Jeep Tour

Pelican Pier (between Holiday Inn and Playa Linda Resort), Holiday Inn Towel Hut Center, Holiday Inn Concierge, Holiday Inn Lobby, Westin Aruba Poolside, Westin Aruba Lower Lobby, Casa Del Mar Beach Resort.  
**Or book online at [www.pelican-aruba.com](http://www.pelican-aruba.com)**



For reservation call:  
**5872302 or 5861455** (Sundays)

## 2 dead, 13 hurt after helicopter crashes in London

**C. VINOGRAD**  
**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — A helicopter crashed into a crane and fell on a crowded street in central London during rush hour Wednesday, sending flames and black plumes of smoke into the air. The pilot and one person on the ground were killed and 13 others injured, officials said.

The helicopter crashed in misty weather just south of the River Thames near the Underground and mainline train station at Vauxhall, and close to the headquarters of spy agency MI6.

Police said one person had critical injuries. Six were taken to a nearby hospital with minor injuries and seven treated at the scene, ambulance officials said.

"It was something of a miracle that this was not many, many times worse," police Cmdr. Neil Basu said.

The pilot, who was killed, had requested to divert and land at the nearby London Heliport because of bad weather, the heliport said in a statement.

"The London Heliport never gained contact with the helicopter," the statement said.

The aircraft, an AgustaWestland 109, was on a commercial flight, said Philip Amadeus, managing director of RotorMotion, an executive helicopter charter business.

The company identified the pilot as Peter Barnes, 50, whose career included flying in films including "Saving Private Ryan" and the James Bond movie "Die Another Day."

"He was a very highly skilled pilot, one of the most experienced in the U.K., with over 12,000 flying hours," Amadeus said. "We are

devastated by the loss of a highly valued colleague and very dear friend."

Police identified the other fatality as 39-year-old Mat-

thew Wood, from south London.

The crash unfolded at the height of the morning commute when thousands of

pedestrians in the area were trying to get to work. The weather at the time was overcast and misty with fog and poor visibility,

according to the Met Office weather forecasting service.

Video from the scene showed wreckage burning in a street, and black smoke in the area, with a line of flaming fuel and debris marking the area where the helicopter smashed down. Witnesses said the disaster unfolded when the helicopter hit a crane atop a 50-story residential building, the St. George Wharf Tower.

"I was 100 percent sure it was a terrorist attack," said Allen Crosbie, site manager for the landscape firm Maylim Ltd., who was working at the scene.

"There was debris everywhere, a ton of black smoke. Parts of the crane, parts of the helicopter. I heard bang, bang — I presume it was the helicopter hitting the crane and then the ground. People were just panicking." □



Smoke and flames are seen at the site of a helicopter crash in central London, as people gather to view the scene shortly after the incident, Wednesday Jan. 16, 2013. Police say two people were killed when the helicopter crashed during rush hour in central London after apparently hitting a construction crane on the side of St. George's Tower.

(AP Photo / Victor Jimenez, PA)

## UN experts, Iran open talks on nuclear probe

**ALI AKBAR DAREINI**  
**Associated Press**

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)** — Senior U.N. investigators opened a new round of talks Wednesday with Iranian officials in Tehran in hopes of restarting a probe into allegations that the Islamic Republic carried out atomic bomb trigger tests and other suspected weapons-related studies.

The semiofficial ISNA news agency reported that negotiations started at the headquarters of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization. It gave no further details.

The U.N. meetings are considered an important test of Iran's willingness to address Western concerns before the possible resumption of a wider dialogue with the U.S. and other world powers.

Negotiations with the six nations — the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany — fell apart more than six months ago. Iran has proposed getting them back on

track, perhaps as soon as later this month.

The U.S. and others hope the talks will result in an agreement that will require Iran to stop enriching uranium to a higher level that could be turned relatively quickly into the warhead-grade material.

Iran denies such aspirations, insisting it is enriching only to make reactor fuel and isotopes for medical purposes. Iran is under tough Western oil and banking sanctions over its refusal to halt uranium enrichment.

ISNA said European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton has agreed restart the next round of world power talks with Iran on Jan. 28-29, but no decision has yet been made on the venue. The last round, in Moscow last June, ended in stalemate.

The official IRNA news agency, however, said the talks may not resume until early February.

Before departing for Iran on Tuesday,

U.N. team leader Herman Nackaerts said the International Atomic Energy Agency hoped to "finalize the structured approach" that would outline what the agency can and cannot do in its investigation.

IAEA spokeswoman Gill Tudor said the talks would continue Thursday.

The U.N. nuclear watchdog wants to revisit Parchin, a military site southeast of Tehran, to look into allegations that Iran may have tested components needed to develop a nuclear weapon. Tehran has steadfastly denied any such activity.

Iran says the IAEA's suspicions are based on forged intelligence provided by the CIA, Israel's Mossad, Britain's MI-6 and other intelligence agencies, and that Tehran has not been allowed to see the materials to respond to them.

The IAEA also is trying to follow up on other suspicions, including whether Iran did computer modeling of a nuclear warhead core. □





**Sawasdee**  
**Thai**  
RESTAURANT

Palm Beach 186, next to Wendy's  
Phone 586-8071 • info@sawasdee-aruba.com




**Everything made fresh to order!**

- Steak -
- Seafood
- Curries
- Vegetarian

**Delicious Rice Table for two**

Open Monday - Saturday from 5pm - 10:30pm • Sunday CLOSED!

## World Bank: Global economy looking brighter

**ANNIE LOWREY**

© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON — Some of the darkest clouds threatening the global economy have started to lift, according to the World Bank's periodic update to its economic forecasts.

The latest version of the twice-yearly Global Economic Prospects report is one of the development bank's least pessimistic in recent years, but hardly an exercise in optimism. It describes a "dramatic" easing of financial conditions around the world, stemming in part from policy changes to soothe the bond markets in Europe. Still, it warns that global growth will continue to be sluggish for years to come. In the report, the World Bank estimates the world economy grew just 2.3 percent in 2012. It expects growth to pick up only modestly in the coming years, from 2.4 percent in 2013 to 3.3 percent in 2015. Developing countries were responsible for more than half of global growth in 2012, the report said, and they will continue to be an engine of growth. The report estimates that developing countries grew 5.1 percent in 2012, and that the pace of growth will accelerate to 5.8 percent in 2015.

"Four years after the crisis, high-income countries are still struggling," Andrew Burns, the report's lead author, said in an interview. "Developing countries need to respond to that difficult environment not through fiscal and monetary stimulus, but rather by looking to reinforce their underlying growth potential in order to have sustainably stronger growth going forward."

For the last four years, de-

veloping countries have remained in something of a defensive crouch, World Bank experts said. Their central banks and finance ministries have intently focused on managing the volatile financial and economic conditions emanating from the United States and Europe, and their policymaking has focused on the short term.

But credit conditions have eased significantly in Eu-

education, public health or regulation, rather than focusing on short-term stimulus measures to counteract economic fluctuations from elsewhere around the globe.

"They have spent the past four years reacting to what's going on in high-income countries," said Burns, noting that different developing countries faced significantly different development challenges.

start to reorient away from a crisis mind-set, the bank said.

"The whole discussion has been dominated by the global crisis," said Hans Timmer, the director of the development prospects group at the World Bank. "It's logical that you are distracted, but there are several problems with that: If you don't go back to the reform agenda, you don't have that growth in the fu-



The president of the European Central Bank, ECB, Mario Draghi, presents the new 5 Euro bill, with more security features, at the Archeological Museum in Frankfurt, Germany.

(AP Photo/dapd/Alex Domanski)

rope, particularly since the European Central Bank, led by Mario Draghi, embarked on a major bond-buying program last year.

Growth has started to pick up in the United States, after taking a hit in the second half of 2012 because of uncertainty stemming from the presidential election and the so-called fiscal cliff, a series of automatic spending cuts and tax increases that Congress mostly averted this month. Now, developing economies need to focus more on their domestic economic troubles, bank economists said. That might mean making long-term investments in infrastructure,

"As a result, almost necessarily, they've been paying less attention to some of these long-term growth-enhancing reforms that are so necessary."

The report says that significant downside risks to global growth persist, including stalled progress in solving the European debt crisis, fiscal uncertainty in the U.S., a decline in investment in China and spiking oil prices. However, the report said, "the likelihood of these risks and their potential impacts has diminished, and the possibility of a stronger-than-anticipated recovery in high-income countries has increased." Developing countries may

ture."

Weakness in large, wealthy countries continues to weigh on growth in the developing world, the report notes, hitting big exporters in South Asia, for instance. Political turmoil continues to rack the Middle East and North Africa, it said. But economic activity in East Asia has rebounded because of increasing regional trade and domestic demand in China.

In contrast, developed countries, like Germany, Japan and the U.S., had growth of only 1.3 percent in 2012. The bank expects that growth to pick up starting in 2014, reaching 2.3 percent by 2015. □

## Russian court rejects Pussy Riot deferring

**DMITRY KOZLOV**

**N. VASILYEVA**

**Associated Press**

**BEREZNIKI, Russia (AP)** — A

Russian court on Wednesday turned down an attempt by an imprisoned Pussy Riot band member to defer serving her sentence for hooliganism until her preschool son becomes a teenager.

Maria Alekhina asked the court in Berezniki, a Urals Mountain city near her prison, to let her serve the rest of her two-year sentence after her 5-year-old son turns 14.

She argued that separation from her young child now would do irreparable psychological damage to him.

Alekhina and two other female members of the punk band were convicted last year of hooliganism motivated by religious hatred for an anti-Vladimir Putin protest in Russia's main cathedral. One of the women has had her sentence suspended on appeal.

Judge Galina Yefremova rejected Alekhina's petition, saying the court that sentenced her had already taken the child's existence into account.

Alekhina told the court Wednesday that while she wanted her sentence deferred, she still refused to plead guilty.

"No one will force me to say I'm guilty — I have nothing to repent for," she said.

Her son, Filipp, is going through his formative years and cannot be without her, she said.

"I'm in a situation where I have to prove here that my son needs me, which is obvious," she said. □



## Venezuela: Decree published with Chavez signature

FABIOLA SANCHEZ  
VIVIAN SEQUERA  
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's government has published a decree signed by President Hugo Chavez, while his vice president said Wednesday that the ailing leader also sent a message of gratitude to the military for its loyalty.

It was the first time the president's signature has appeared in the Official Gazette since his latest cancer surgery in Cuba more than five weeks ago. The decree issued Tuesday and published in the government newspaper on Wednesday names former vice president Elias Jaua as Venezuela's new foreign minister. The signature is printed along with the presidential stamp. Current Vice Presi-

dent Nicolas Maduro, who has been in charge of the country during Chavez's recovery, announced Jaua's appointment at a National Assembly session on Tuesday.

Chavez has not made any public comments since his operation last month, his fourth in 18 months. He has been fighting an unspecified type of pelvic cancer, and his silence has fed speculation about his medical condition.

Before the decree was published, the opposition had questioned the legality of the new foreign minister's appointment, citing a lack of publicly released documents with Chavez's signature.

The opposition has also been demanding more information about the president's condition.

"If the president of the republic can sign decrees, I call on him to appear, speak to Venezuela and talk about everything that's happening in that government," top opposition leader Henrique Capriles said Wednesday.

In a televised speech to soldiers, Maduro recalled meeting with Chavez in Havana earlier this week, saying the president was pleased with how his allies have been working together.

"We were with the commander in chief 48 hours ago, and yesterday we spoke with Minister Jorge Arreaza (Chavez's son-in-law), and he really feels great happiness to see, when we described how we've been interacting, the work we're doing constantly," Maduro said. □



University students hang a banner that reads in Spanish: "Respect the constitution," over the side of a bridge near a billboard showing President Hugo Chavez in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

## Court convicts Holocaust-denying bishop

BERLIN (AP) — A German court has fined an ultraconservative British bishop €1,800 (\$2,400) for denying the Holocaust in a television interview.

German news agency dpa reported that an administrative court in Regensburg convicted Richard Williamson of incitement and levied the fine on Wednesday. The case was retried after an earlier conviction of Williamson was overturned on procedural grounds.

The 72-year-old Williamson told a Swedish TV station in 2008, during an interview conducted near Regensburg, that he did not believe Jews were killed in gas chambers during World War II. Holocaust denial is a crime in Germany.

A traditionalist group of breakaway Catholics, the Society of St. Pius X, expelled Williamson last October. He didn't attend Wednesday's court proceedings. □

## AROUND THE WORLD

### UK fines Playboy for pornographic sites

LONDON (AP) — Britain's media watchdog has fined Playboy 100,000 pounds (\$160,000) for failing to protect children from accessing two of its U.K.-based pornographic websites. Ofcom said that the two sites, Playboy TV and Demand Adult, broke British rules because there are no effective controls to check that users are over 18 years old before they can access "hardcore videos and images." The regulator said Wednesday that users could access the material by paying with debit cards, which unlike credit cards are available to people under 18. It said that the sites' failure to protect children was "serious, repeated and reckless." □

### Jamaica cops seize 1,400 pounds of pot

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Jamaican authorities have seized nearly 1,400 pounds (635 kilograms) of tightly compressed marijuana during a raid in a north coast beach town. The police force's crime and narcotics division arrested two men and seized 39 bags stuffed with marijuana during a six-hour operation Wednesday in the Success Beach district of the northern parish of St. James. The area is not far from the tourist mecca of Montego Bay. The identities of the suspects have not been released while the investigation is ongoing. The U.S. State Department says Jamaica is the Caribbean's largest producer and exporter of marijuana. □

### 2 girls found dead on Guatemala street

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — Guatemalan authorities say two young girls have been found dead on a street in a working-class district of the capital. Fire department spokesman Sergio Vasquez says the girls were in pajamas when their bodies were spotted before dawn Wednesday by passers-by who summoned authorities. He says the girls appeared to be between 6 and 12 years old. Vasquez says police are investigating whether the girls were strangled. He says one was holding rosary beads. Police also found the bodies of two women in their 30s at two other locations in the same district Wednesday. Vasquez says both women had been shot to death. □

### Brazil company creates fake girlfriends

SAO PAULO (AP) — Want to make your ex-girlfriend jealous? Need to show your friends you are in a serious relationship when you aren't? A Brazilian website says it has the answer: fake girlfriends. NamoroFake.com.br says that for \$20 it will create a fake girlfriend and post her profile on Facebook during seven days. Without revealing numbers, the website says it has "a lot" of male clients who use its services to make former girlfriends jealous and show them they are dating again. It says "all profiles are fictitious and not based on real people." Site creator Flavio Estevam tells the news "soon we will create fake boyfriends for women." □

### Top Russian mafia boss slain in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — One of Russia's top crime lords was gunned down Wednesday in Moscow in what police described as a war between two powerful mobs over lucrative construction projects, allegedly including ones for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

Police said an unidentified gunman fired seven shots from a sniper gun at Aslan Usoyan near a restaurant in central Moscow — the third assassination attempt on him since the late 1990s. □



# JOLLY PIRATES \$10<sup>off</sup>

**SAIL, SNORKEL, SWIM & SWING!**  
**DAILY 9:30am-1:30pm \$57pp**  
**Visit 3 Great sites with BBQ,**  
**Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!**

**AFTERNOON SNORKEL**  
**DAILY 2:30-5:30pm \$38pp**  
**Shorter version with Open**  
**Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!**

**\*SUNSET SAIL**  
**Mon & Fri 5-7pm \$30pp**  
**Open Bar included**  
**& Ropeswing!**  
\* additional days upon request/seasonal

**Tickets available at Jolly Pirates Shop at MooMba Beach. Boarding at MooMba Beach- by the high rise hotels between Holiday Inn and Marriott Resorts. Offer not valid in combination with other discount offers. Valid for direct telephone reservations ONLY - Present coupon at boarding**

**586 8107/592 7858**

**Save \$10 per couple/per coupon for morning cruise Save \$5 per couple/per coupon for afternoon cruise**

## ‘Stateless’ Haitians gaining legal ground

**E. ABUI LOPEZ**  
**Associated Press**

**SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS, Dominican Republic (AP)**

— Julien Henrique spent 50 years toiling in the sugar cane fields of the Dominican Republic and 10 more trying to collect a meager monthly pension after he left the company.

Born in neighboring Haiti, Henrique never received a birth certificate before crossing the Dominican border as a young man, when passports were unnecessary for those willing to cut cane under the punishing sun. By the time he left the fields, he still didn't have official documents, which meant he couldn't prove his identity and receive benefits he had worked for all his life.

"You come from Haiti, you've got nothing," the 92-year-old Henrique said, leaning on a stick in this sugar workers community in the eastern Dominican Republic.

Thousands of Haitians toiling in the Dominican Republic live in a similar limbo, enduring not just legal non-existence but mounting hostility toward migrants from the far poorer half of Hispaniola island. That uncertainty, however, is ending for many as they finally win official papers, and with them, long-denied benefits and rights.

Workers from the Scalabrinian Association, a Catholic order dedicated to helping migrants and refugees, have been fanning out to rural communities of sugar workers known as bateyes and helping often illiterate workers fill out forms that can be processed by Hai-

tian consular officials. The association, which receives financial assistance for the project from the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as the European Union, helped win passports and birth

guards and police rarely enforce the requirement in sugar-growing regions such as San Pedro de Macoris, about 44 miles (71 kilometers) east of Santo Domingo.

"This is obviously very small

eight times larger. The Dominican Republic thrives as one of the top tourism destinations in the Caribbean and is a significant agricultural exporter, specializing in coffee, sugar and cacao. Both industries require



**Haitian immigrant Julienne Prophete, 62, who has survived without any identification since 1971, shows her newly acquired passport during an interview at a sugar workers community in San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic.**

(AP Photo/Manuel Diaz)

certificates for about 2,000 people in 2012 and hopes to secure papers for at least 5,000 more this year, said Idalina Bordignon, the group's director in the Dominican Republic.

That's a small but promising launch for a migrant population estimated at around 1 million people, but it's helping address the complaints of many former cane workers, who have held noisy protests in the capital to demand their pensions. While visas are necessary for Haitians to live and work in the Dominican Republic, border

compared with the enormous number of people without papers but it's a start," said Gonzalo Vargas Llosa, a representative of the U.N. refugee commission in the Dominican Republic.

For now, Bordignon said, the aid group is focusing on elderly workers who have lost out on benefits.

It's also helping women who need documents to register their children for school.

While the Dominican Republic is still largely poor, it's vastly better off than Haiti, with an economy about

cheap labor that Haitians have long provided.

Yet many Dominicans have come to resent the influx of lower-paid workers from across the border and have sought to make their country less hospitable to noncitizens.

In recent years, the government has adopted new penalties for companies that hire illegal workers and has amended the constitution to no longer automatically grant citizenship to people born in the country before 2010, except for those whose parents were legal residents. □

## Puerto Rico's gov. starts plan to create jobs

**DANICA COTO**  
**Associated Press**

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)**

— Puerto Rico's new governor strode onstage wielding a baseball bat on Wednesday as he unveiled a long-awaited plan to help create thousands of jobs on an island struggling to emerge from a financial crisis. Alejandro Garcia Padilla signed a new law called "Jobs Now" in front of hundreds of business owners and dozens of government officials attending a local economic summit. He was joined onstage by former Major League Baseball player Edgar Martinez, who handed out autographed bats to business owners who had already pledged to hire a specific number of workers by 2014. Garcia said the U.S. territory has the talent and resources needed to hit a home run and stimulate the economy. He has promised to create 50,000 jobs in the next 18 months.

"I understand that people are skeptical," he said. "The government has failed the people many times before." Puerto Rico's unemployment rate currently hovers above 13 percent, higher than in any U.S. state. Garcia said he plans to reduce that rate through a five-point plan that includes new incentives, reduced fees and tax exemptions. Hundreds of business owners cheered the plan, which comes several years after the previous governor laid off more than 20,000 public workers to help reduce a billion-dollar budget deficit. □





## ATSA toasts to past accomplishments and future goals

EAGLE - A congenial meeting of the minds was shared over drinks and dinner by Aruba TimeShare Association (ATSA) members, who celebrated collaborative efforts in 2012, with toasts to continued cooperation in 2013. The recent rainy weather did not dampen spirits with a delicious dinner originally planned at Passions by Amsterdam Manor, quickly relocated to Tulip restaurant at MVC Eagle Beach Aruba. During the event, current ATSA President Jan van Nes expressed that 2012 had been a challenging year, but that the association looks forward to 2013, with ATSA further expanding its goals in remaining an active participant in the island's tourism industry. In 2012, ATSA was represented at the American Resort Development Association (ARDA) conference

as a proponent of providing dedicated attention to tourism product as well as infrastructure as an essential part of ensuring the vacation experience. ATSA also continues to work successfully with exchange companies, such as Interval International and RCI, with Aruba remaining a highly-desired destination among timeshare owners. Local efforts have encompassed a full spectrum of activities, including continued collaborations with the Government through the Tourism Product Enhancement Fund (TPEF). A well-deserved, year-end celebration was enhanced by an outstanding four-course dinner, with matching wines, presented by Chef Stanwick Bloem, whose artistry with cuisine can be enjoyed on



a regular basis at Passions Restaurant at Amsterdam Manor. Along with ATSA members, Aruba Experience Director Susan Ruiter, who oversees the publication of the personalized in-house magazines featured at Aruba's timeshares, also shared in the recent, celebratory event. Aruba boasts approximately 4,000 timeshare units that serve to guarantee year-round, high occupancies by Aruba's most loyal visitors. ATSA members include Marriott's Aruba Surf Club, Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club, Casa del Mar, Costa Linda Beach Resort, Aruba Beach Club, La Quinta, Paradise Beach Villas, Caribbean Palm Vil-



lage, Amsterdam Manor, La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino, Divi Aruba Phoenix, Divi Dutch Village and

Divi Links, Tropicana, Occidental and Playa Linda Beach Resort as well as De Palm Tours. □





## Donkey Sanctuary organizes idyllic countryside walkathon



**SANTA LUCIA** - The eighth annual donkey walkathon is coming up: an 6.5-kilometer long spectacular walk through Aruba's countryside. Last year the walkathon was a great success with more than 350 participants and a few donkeys. This year the organizers can once again count on donkeys Ban Ban and Igor to join in! Held on Saturday, January 19, the walk will be sponsored by



Bucuti Resort. Registration is possible from 4 pm at the Ayo Rock Formation; the walk starts there at 5. For your AWG. 10,-- registration fee you also participate in a raffle and a small attention

courtesy of Bucuti Resort. So get out of your lazy chair and come and join the fun together with the donkeys. For more information about the walkathon, please call 593-2933. □

**Beauty On The Beach**

*Luz Maria*

She is visiting Aruba and staying at The Amsterdam Manor. Luz Maria de Rio is from Argentina

**WINNER OF TRIP ADVISOR'S CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE 2012**  
Best Lobster House and International Cuisine's Restaurant

**The Blue Lobster**  
INTERNATIONAL CUISINE & LOBSTER HOUSE  
Phone: 586-3843

## United Airlines launches Satellite based Wi-Fi service

**CHICAGO, Jan. 15, 2013** – United Airlines has introduced onboard satellite-based Wi-Fi internet connectivity on the first of its international widebody aircraft, becoming the first U.S.-based international carrier to offer customers the ability to stay connected while traveling on long-haul overseas routes.

The aircraft, a Boeing 747 outfitted with Panasonic Avionics Corporation's Ku-band satellite technology, serves trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific routes.

Additionally, United has outfitted Ku-band satellite Wi-Fi on two Airbus 319 aircraft serving domestic routes, offering customers faster inflight Internet service than air-to-ground technology (ATG). The company expects to complete installation of satellite-based Wi-Fi on 300 mainline aircraft by the end of this year.

"Satellite-based Wi-Fi service enables us to better serve our customers and offer them more of what they want in a global airline," said Jim Compton, vice chairman and chief revenue officer at United. "With this new service, we continue to build the airline that customers want to fly."

Customers have the choice of two speeds: Standard, priced initially between \$3.99 and \$14.99 depending on the duration of flight, and Accelerated, priced initially between \$5.99 and \$19.99 and offering faster download speeds than Standard.

United will install satellite-based Wi-Fi on Airbus 319 and 320 aircraft, and on Boeing 737, 747, 757, 767, 777 and 787 aircraft. □



## Loyal visitors honored by ATA at Caribbean Palm Village



**NOORD** - Recently, Nicolette Giorgio, Lisa Guerrero and Brandon Giannelli, residents of Watertown, Connecticut, were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors and Distinguished Visitors of Aruba!

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba between

10-and-20 years consecutive.

The honorees are members of Caribbean Palm Village and have been enjoying the island's wonderful attractions each consecutive year that they visit.

Darline S. de Cuba, representing Aruba Tourism Authority, and Angie Gonzalez of the Caribbean

Palm Village conducted the ceremony at their home resort.

The top reasons for excitedly returning to our island paradise year after year? They consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island," they love the typically great weather and Friendly Aruban Hospitality, and they consider Aruba to be their one and only 'home away from home.' □

# BONUS



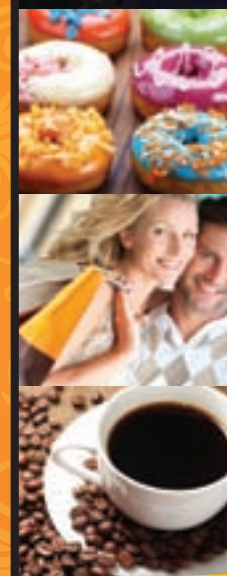
## THURSDAY!

**Super 4-Card BINGO starting at 1pm!**

**\$6 for 4-Card BINGO! • 8 games to play!**

**\$1,000 in Cash Prizes!**

**Additional \$500 Cash Prize** in our Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you purchase your card prior to 12 noon!



### The Shops at Alhambra Casino

#### Dining

- Baskin-Robbins
- Dunkin Donuts
- Fusion ~ Piano, Cigar & Wine Bar
- Ginger ~ Asian Flavors
- Juan Valdez Café
- Little Caesars
- Subway

#### Retail

- Aruba Aloe®
- Aruba Memories
- Daher & Co
- Diamonds International
- Divi Logo Shop
- Intermezzo ~ The Salon
- R-Glass
- The Lazy Lizard
- The Market

**Where Aruba goes to play!**

Open daily 10am to 4am • J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 • 583.5000 • [www.casinoalhambra.com](http://www.casinoalhambra.com)

Must be an Alhambra Advantage member. All programs and promotions are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice.

**Alhambra**  
CASINO AND SHOPS



**J.H. YEE'S**  
珍味 Asian Bistro

LUNCH SPECIALS starting at \$14,95

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL \$14,95

HOUSE SPECIAL \$16,95

**NOW SERVING TEPPANYAKI (hibachi cooking table)**

SUSHI BAR (lunch and dinner)

**OPEN**  
Lunch 12 pm-3pm  
Dinner 6 pm-11 pm  
**EVERY DAY**



Located at South Beach Centre | Palm Beach 55, Aruba | Tel: 586 3888 | Fax: 586 8883

## Aruba says “Masha Danki” to John and Dorothy Baldi!

**PALM BEACH** - John and Dorothy Baldi, residents of Rockland, Massachusetts, were honored this week as Goodwill Ambassadors to Aruba!

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest who visits Aruba for 20 consecutive years or more. □ These special honorees are members of Playa Linda Beach Resort and they have such a good time every year that they visit, that they usually plan their next trip back

before they leave the island!

Darline S. de Cuba, representing Aruba Tourism Authority, together with Yvette Tromp, representing Concierge and Weddings at Playa Linda, conducted the simple ceremony for all resort guests to enjoy... and perhaps envy a little!

The main reason they return to the 'Happy Island' of Aruba is because of the typically great weather, our sugar-white sandy beaches, and because they LOVE the local food! □



## Secretary General optimistic about preparations for the 5th ACS Summit

**PORT OF SPAIN** - Three months shy of hosting the 5th Summit of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) in Haiti, the Secretary General of the ACS traveled to this ACS Member Country from Thursday 10th to Sunday 13th January to convene meetings with various representatives from the Government of Haiti where he was apprised of the progress of advancement of the Summit. He was accompanied by Mathieu Fontanaud, Adviser of the Directorate of Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction.

In a series of four separate meetings, the first was held between the Secretary General and the National Coordinator of the 5th Summit, Dr. Watson Denis. Also in attendance were representatives from the various Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Culture, Tourism,

Finance, Trade and Transport, who comprise the different Sub Commissions under the umbrella of the National Commission of the Summit.

These Sub Commissions are as follows: Budget and Logistics, Tourism and Cultural Activities, Police and Security, Welcome and Protocol, Reproduction of Documents, Translation and Interpretation.

The National Commission disclosed that two rehearsals of the Summit were planned in order to better prepare on matters related to security and communication. Secretary General Múnera was satisfactorily briefed on the advancement of the preparation of these Commissions.

During this mission, the Secretary General also met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Pierre-Richard Casimir.

Both diplomats shared their enthusiasm and optimism regarding the 5th ACS Summit.

They also discussed the upcoming Intersessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) which will also take place in Haiti from 18th -19th February and the I CELAC Summit from 25th – 28th January in Chile, which they were both looking forward to participate.

The Secretary General was then invited to meet with the Secretary General of the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Michel Brunache, where discussions revolved around the preparations of the Summit.

On the final leg of his trip, Secretary General Múnera accepted the invitation to visit hotels selected to host the Summit. These ho-

tels include: Best Western; Royal Oasis; NH Rancho; Villa Créole; Kinam I and II; Karibe Convention Centre; and the Hotel Montana.

The ACS has organised four (4) Summits of Heads of State and Government. They met in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in August 1995; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in April 1999; Margarita Island, Venezuela, in December 2001; and Panama City, Republic of Panama, in July 2005.

The President of the Republic of Haiti, His Excellency Michel Joseph Martelly, on the very day of his oath of office, May 14, 2011, suggested to the then Secretary General the convening of the 5th Summit of the ACS in Haiti.

From then to now, the Haitian authorities have committed to make this 5th ACS Summit a great national,

regional and international event.

About the ACS:

The Association of Caribbean States is the organization for consultation, cooperation and concerted action in trade, transport, sustainable tourism and natural disasters in the Greater Caribbean. Its Member States are Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela. Its Associate Members are Aruba, France on behalf of French Guiana, Guadeloupe, and Martinique, and the Netherlands Antilles. □



# Now it counts: Sharapova, Venus into 3rd round

Russia's Maria Sharapova blows kisses to the crowd after defeating Japan's Misaki Doi during their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013

Associated Press  
Page 21



## Floods halt Dakar; Peterhansel keeps overall lead

**FIAMBALA, Argentina (AP)**

— Flash floods stopped the Dakar Rally on Wednesday but the shortened 11th stage still left Stephane Peterhansel with a commanding lead three days from the finish.

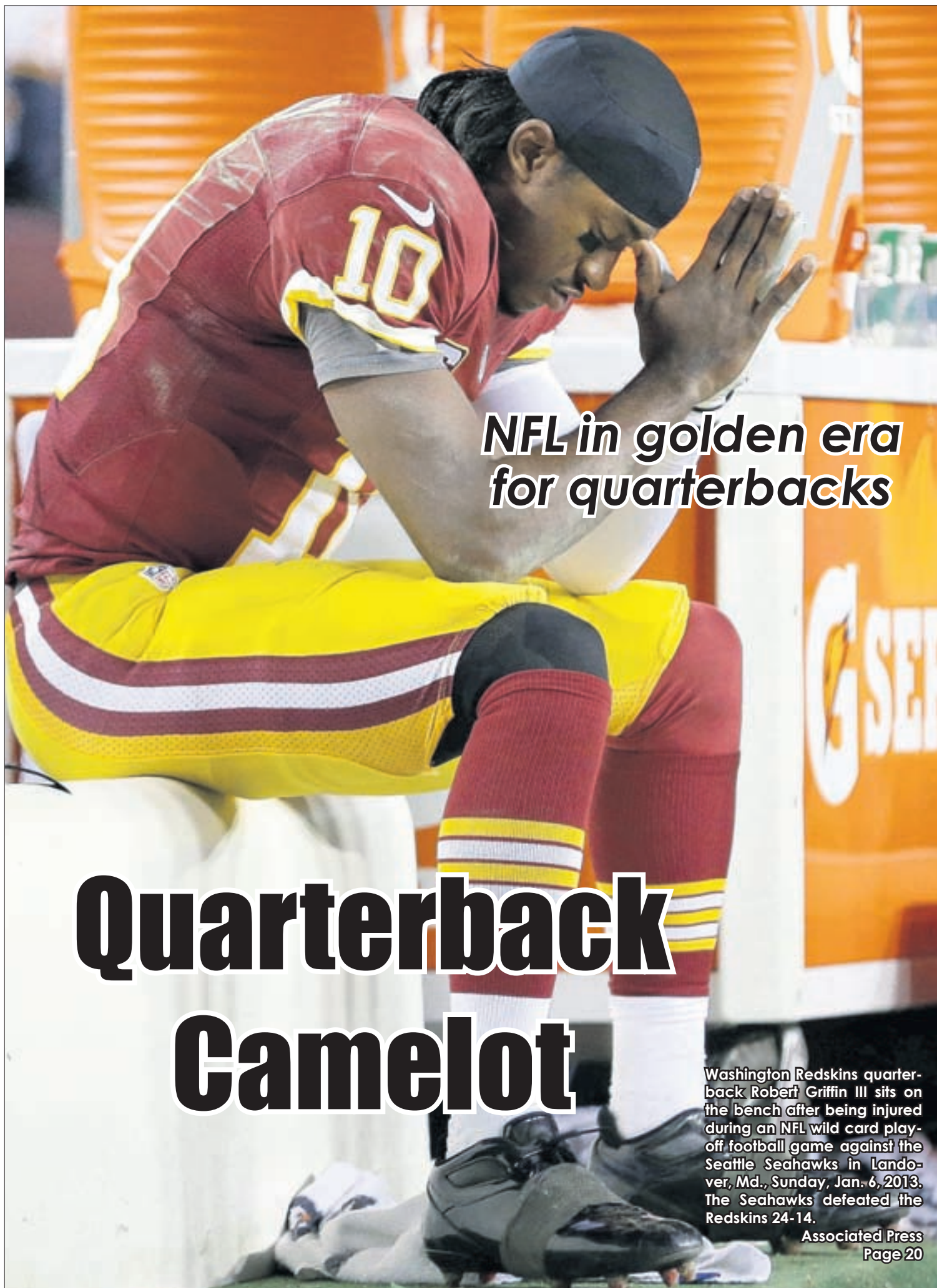
Two swollen rivers forced organizers to stop the cars after 53 kilometers of the scheduled 219-kilometer stage on the sand dunes around Fiambala. Robbie Gordon led in his Hummer at that point, followed by Ronan Chabot and Lucio Alvarez.

Peterhansel, who was lying sixth, was given a provisional 52-minute lead over Giniel de Villiers as the Frenchman closes in on an 11th career victory in the Dakar. "On every day that brings us closer to the finish, it's important to finish them without making any big mistakes, so it gets us nearer to the podium," Peterhansel said. "It's better to lose a few seconds trying to find the right place to pass than losing several minutes stuck in the mud or water."

The motorbikes completed their shortened stage before the rain hit. Defending champion Cyril Despres of France increased his overall lead to 13:16 ahead of KTM teammate Ruben Faria of Portugal, and 18:08 in front of Francisco Lopez of Chile, another KTM rider.

Kurt Caselli of the United States won his second stage in his maiden Dakar. He finished 4:45 ahead of Paulo Goncalves of Portugal and had a 6:24 advantage over Despres.

"There was a storm in the dunes and it started raining," Despres said. □



**NFL in golden era  
for quarterbacks**

# Quarterback Camelot

Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III sits on the bench after being injured during an NFL wild card playoff football game against the Seattle Seahawks in Landover, Md., Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013. The Seahawks defeated the Redskins 24-14.

Associated Press  
Page 20



# Bode Miller to miss rest of the season

**PAT GRAHAM**  
**AP Sports Writer**

Bode Miller will skip the rest of the World Cup season to rest his surgically repaired left knee.

The two-time overall champion had microfracture surgery nearly a year ago and has not competed at all this season. He will skip the rest of the season as well as he doesn't want any sort of setback with the Sochi Olympics — his last one, he said — so close.

Miller has never missed a full season since his debut in 1997.

"It was tough for me to miss a season of ski racing, but this decision was easy for me when I look at my opportunity next year," the 35-year-old Miller said in a press release Wednesday. "I have said many times that motivation is a key trait for me when it comes to my racing — I am super motivated to do great things next year."

Miller has been so successful by doing things his way, on his terms. That gambler's mentality has served him well in his career, leading to five Olympic medals — including that elusive gold at the 2010 Vancouver



In this Jan. 13, 2012 file photo, Bode Miller, of the United States, looks at the scoreboard after finishing third in an alpine ski, men's World Cup super-combined, in Wengen, Switzerland.

Associated Press

Games — four world championships and 33 World Cup wins, which is an American men's record.

U.S. coach Sasha Rearick applauded Miller's decision to slow down and not rush back into action. He wants Miller healthy in a year, not

skiing on the circuit just for the sake of skiing on the circuit. "It is an incredibly smart and strategic decision by Bode," Rearick said. "He's become legendary for pushing the limits of what is possible on skis, but knows an additional injury to

his knee could put the 2014 Olympics in jeopardy. "At this point, he is not fully recovered to race and has turned his focus to being 100 percent fit for Sochi." By shutting things down early, Miller won't lose his starting position at World Cup races next season. He will still begin with the top skiers in the world, not near the bottom when the snow has been trampled and filled with ruts. Off the slopes, this has been a big year for Miller. He married pro volleyball player Morgan Miller on Oct. 7, and the couple is expecting their first child. Miller has a daughter from a previous relationship. Miller has had his share of drama away from skiing. In December, Miller accidentally hit his wife in the eye with a golf ball. Later, on Twitter, he posted, "Hit wife w golfball. (hash)worstfeelingever."

Photos of his wife last month showed her left eye completely closed and badly bloodied. She ended up getting more than 50 stitches. She later posted: "I'm not feeling so hot. Line drive to the face today with a golf ball from my darling husband. I still love." □

## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

**Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"**



**ORANJESTAD** - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean.

What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to 12 noon and from 1 pm to



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

5pm.  
**Catch your own dinner**  
A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com).  
**Driftwood Restaurant**

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95  
**Charter deep sea fishing rates:**  
\$400 - 1/2 day

\$760- full day  
Rates per boat  
Max. 6 people  
**Driftwood Restaurant**  
Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat 12, Downtown Oranjestad  
Tel: (297) 583 2515  
[www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com)  
Opening hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm.  
**Sunday Closed.**



## NBA Capsules

# Kobe, Dwight get 31 each in Lakers' win over Bucks

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Dwight Howard had 31 points and 16 rebounds, Kobe Bryant also scored 31 points and Los Angeles beat Milwaukee for its second straight win after a six-game skid.

Metta World Peace added 12 points as the Lakers prepared for Thursday's visit from the NBA champion Miami Heat with an impressive effort against the Bucks, who lost for the second time in five games under interim coach Jim Boylan.

Bryant and Howard both had 30-point games for the second time in their brief tenure together, and the Bucks couldn't cope with Bryant's outside game or Howard's inside dominance.

Monta Ellis scored 17 points for Milwaukee, while Brandon Jennings was held to 12 points on 4-of-14 shooting largely by Bryant's defense.

Howard again played with an obvious spark in his second game back from a three-game absence with a torn labrum in his shoulder, defending aggressively in the paint while overpowering the Bucks on offense.

Pau Gasol missed his fifth straight game for the Lakers with a concussion, but the 7-foot Spaniard worked out before the game and will be re-examined before Thursday's game against

Miami.

**LA CLIPPERS 117, ROCKETS 109**

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Jamal Crawford scored a season-high 30 points, including 12 straight to start the fourth quarter, and the Los Angeles Clippers looked just fine without Chris Paul in a 117-109 win over the struggling Houston Rockets on Tuesday night.

The Clippers won their second game in a row despite missing their star point guard, who is day to day with a bruised right knee-cap.

Los Angeles used a big third quarter to take the lead, and Crawford extended the advantage to 20 by outscoring Houston 12-7 in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter.

James Harden had 23 points for the Rockets, whose four-game losing streak is a season worst.

The Clippers improved to 11-1 this season when Crawford leads the team in scoring.

Los Angeles opened the second half with a 10-0 run to take a 68-59 lead with about nine minutes left in the third quarter.

**NUGGETS 115, TRAIL BLAZERS 111, OT**

**DENVER (AP)** — Wilson Chandler hit a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 14.9 seconds remaining in overtime and Denver beat Portland for its season-best sixth consecutive victory.

Danilo Gallinari had 25 points, including a key 3-pointer in the extra period. Ty Lawson added 24 points and 12 assists for the Nuggets, who are 2-0 in overtime this season.

Portland, which lost for the first time in six OT games this season, was led by LaMarcus Aldridge's 28 points. Nicolas Batum had 22 points and J.J. Hickson 19.

**PACERS 103, BOBCATS 76**

**CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)** — Roy Hibbert had 18 points and seven rebounds, and Indiana handed Charlotte its 13th straight home loss.

The Pacers bounced back from Sunday's 11-point defeat to Brooklyn and won for the fifth time in six games.

With team owner Michael Jordan looking on from the bench, the Bobcats lost their fifth in a row. They've dropped 24 of 26 since Thanksgiving.

Indiana won this one going away behind some dominant inside play, out-rebounding the Bobcats 60-31 and outscoring them 52-22 in the paint.

Paul George had 16 points and 10 rebounds, while David West added 15 points and eight rebounds for the Pacers. George Hill chipped in with 16 points and seven rebounds.

The Central Division leaders (24-15) have not lost consecutive games since



Los Angeles Lakers center Dwight Howard dunks during the second half of their NBA basketball game against the Milwaukee Bucks, Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013, in Los Angeles. The Lakers won 104-88. Associated Press

Dec. 9.

Gerald Henderson led the Bobcats with 15 points.

**NETS 113, RAPTORS 106**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Brook Lopez had 22 points and nine rebounds, Joe Johnson and Deron Williams each scored 21 points, and Brooklyn beat Toronto to extend its season-high winning streak to seven games.

Andray Blatche added 14 points for the Nets, in

the midst of their longest winning streak since running off 14 in a row late in the 2005-06 season. A .500 team when they fired Avery Johnson late last month, Brooklyn is 9-1 under interim coach P.J. Carlesimo and has pulled within 1½ games of the New York Knicks for the Atlantic Division lead.

The Nets dominated the fourth quarter again, pulling away for their sixth straight home victory. Kyle Lowry scored 21 points for the Raptors, who have dropped two in a row but still have 10 wins in their last 15 games.

**HORNETS 111, 76ERS 99**

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Greivis Vasquez scored 23 points and Eric Gordon added 19 to help New Orleans beat Philadelphia.

Ryan Anderson had 14 points, Xavier Henry scored 11 and Anthony Davis 10 for the Hornets, who are last in the Western Conference at 12-26 — with matching 6-13 records at home and on the road.

Jrue Holiday led the Sixers with 29 points and 11 assists. Nick Young and Evan Turner added 14 points each while Thaddeus Young scored 12. □

## A-Rod has hip surgery; recovery time 6 months

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Alex Rodriguez had surgery on his left hip on Wednesday and is expected to be sidelined until after the Major League Baseball All-Star break in July.

The New York Yankees said Dr. Bryan Kelly repaired a torn labrum and impingement and the operation at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York "went as planned and without complication."

The 37-year-old former All-Star third baseman is expected to be released from the hospital on Thursday and the anticipated time for a full recovery is

six months. The Yankees signed free agent Kevin Youkilis this offseason to play third base while Rodriguez was out.

Kelly said last week that Rodriguez had a condition known as femoral acetabular impingement and it was caused by genes, not by steroids. Rodriguez admitted in 2009 that he used steroids while with the Texas Rangers from 2001-03.

Kelly said the injury was responsible for Rodriguez's poor performance in September and October, when A-Rod was benched in three of nine postseason games and pinch hit for in

three others.

He batted .120 (3 for 25) with no RBIs in the playoffs, including 0 for 18 with 12 strikeouts against right-handed pitchers.

Rodriguez is due \$114 million over the next five years as part of his record \$275 million, 10-year contract, so his health is a major concern for the Yankees.

A 14-time All-Star, Rodriguez had right hip surgery in March 2009, and returned that May.

Kelly said the left hip requires more recovery time because Rodriguez is a right-handed hitter and rotates it when he swings. □



In this May 23, 2012, file photo, New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez throws to first in the Yankees' baseball game against the Kansas City Royals at Yankee Stadium in New York. Associated Press



# Golden era for QBs, with great stories around NFL

**RACHEL COHEN**

**AP Sports Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The two kids from Northern California burst from NFL afterthought to championship contender in eerily similar fashion a decade apart.

Tom Brady and Colin Kaepernick, each playing in a conference title game this weekend, are bookends to a fortuitous moment in quarterback history. On one side are the likes of Brady, Peyton Manning and Drew Brees, still scintillating in their mid-30s.

On the other are Kaepernick, a second-year player, and the brilliant class of rookies with Andrew Luck, Robert Griffin III and Russell



**New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, right, talks with Houston Texans defensive end J.J. Watt following their AFC divisional playoff NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013. The Patriots defeated the Texans 41-28.**

**Associated Press**



**Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco speaks during a news conference at the team's practice facility in Owings Mills, Md., Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013. The Ravens are scheduled to face the New England Patriots in the AFC Championship on Sunday.**

**Associated Press**

Wilson leading their teams to the playoffs.

Young, old and in between, the current crop of NFL quarterbacks is not only deep but dynamic and diverse.

"We're in a little bit of a boom right now. We're flowing a little bit, especially young players," Hall of Famer Steve Young says. "If those guys continue to develop, we'll have a period of time here, kind of a Camelot of quarterbacking."

The depth of the position shows in the other two guys joining New England's Brady and San Francisco's Kaepernick in the conference championship games. Atlanta's Matt Ryan and Baltimore's Joe Flacco were first-round draft picks in 2008, and for all their successes, they're probably

low on the list when fans think of the most dominant NFL quarterbacks.

Yet here they are a win away from the Super Bowl after leading stirring comebacks that answered many doubts about each.

Quarterback has long been the glamour position of American sports, but it seems even a bit more glamorous right now. Rule changes favor a wide-open passing game, which makes a superior quarterback more valuable. Colleges and high schools run more sophisticated offenses, and the best athletes gravitate to quarterback then develop into polished passers who happen to be able to scramble.

There was that brief period less than 15 years ago when Trent Dilfer and Brad Johnson won Super Bowls, and



**San Francisco 49ers head coach Jim Harbaugh celebrates with quarterback Colin Kaepernick (7) after Kaepernick's 56-yard touchdown run against the Green Bay Packers during the third quarter of an NFC divisional playoff NFL football game in San Francisco, Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013.**

**Associated Press**

it seemed perhaps championship teams didn't need a star at the position. Since then, here's the roll call of victorious quarterbacks: Brady, Ben Roethlisberger, both Manning brothers, Brees and Aaron Rodgers. Twenty-five of the 46 Super Bowl MVPs have been quarterbacks, but now it's five of the last six. In the half-dozen years before that, four were non-quarterbacks, including two defensive players.

"It ebbs and flows, no question. There's some dark times where you have two

or three guys that can truly do it," said Young, Kaepernick's forerunner as a dual-threat San Francisco quarterback and now a TV analyst.

Jimmy Johnson, who won two Super Bowls with future Hall of Famer Troy Aikman as his quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys, was talking to New England coach Bill Belichick last summer about the recent shift. Belichick has won three championships with Brady, but even as of a few years ago, both coaches believed a title was possible behind a strong defense and running game.

Not anymore, they agreed. "Now, the only thing that

season game, nearly two-thirds of the league. That's by far the most since the NFL went to a 16-game season in 1978, according to STATS, four more than the previous high. That record partly reflects a lack of injuries, in which all those rules protecting the quarterback may be a factor — along with, of course, sheer luck. But it also reflects how few teams benched their quarterbacks. Most clubs are quite happy with their current situation. For all the quarterback intrigue in the playoffs, consider the big names who didn't qualify for the postseason: Brees, Eli Manning, Roethlisberger, Tony Romo, Cam Newton. And then there's Tim Tebow, who may never start again as an NFL quarterback but is still one of the most recognizable and polarizing athletes in U.S. sports. This quarterback Camelot is about more than the deep field of effective starters. The playoffs oozed with stars popular not just for their performances but their personalities and pizzazz.

"I marvel at how prepared these guys are — not only on the field, but the exposure they get off it," said Aikman, also a TV commentator. "Whether it's through social networks or different platforms, they are given the opportunity to talk to the press and are much more well-rounded and prepared for all that comes with the scrutiny of the position than ever before."

"If you're on Park Avenue in New York (at league headquarters), you're pretty happy with the new representatives that will be the ambassadors for the league for the years to come."

The quarterbacks in the postseason undoubtedly fascinate fans, but they do so in different ways.

Nielsen/E-Poll calculates an "N-Score" to measure the endorsement potential of athletes. Peyton Manning has the top score of current quarterbacks, but other players come out ahead in specific categories in the surveys. □

matters is if you get a great quarterback," said Johnson, now a TV commentator.

Of this year's playoff teams, the only one without great stability at quarterback was Minnesota. But the Vikings had running back Adrian Peterson.

The bottom of the standings is full of clubs with uncertainty at the position: Kansas City, Jacksonville, Philadelphia, Arizona and the New York Jets.

This year, 20 quarterbacks started every regular-





**SNUBA and Snorkel Sail \$65**

**Snorkeling only \$32.50**

Tues & Thur 9 - 12 am or 1 - 4 pm

Wed & Fri 9 - 12 am or 12:30 - 3:30 pm

Fruit and soft drinks included



**For reservation call 586-0096**

Leaving from: Pier between Moomba Beach and Marriott Resort



## Djokovic, Sharapova advance; Stosur out in 2nd Rd

**DENNIS PASSA**

**AP Sports Writer**

**MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)**

— Novak Djokovic was all but perfect in his second-round match Wednesday against Ryan Harrison, beating the 20-year-old American 6-1, 6-2, 6-3 to stay on track for his third consecutive Australian Open title and the fourth of his career.

Maria Sharapova was even more convincing a few hours earlier, winning 6-0, 6-0 for the second time in two matches to set up a third-round encounter with Venus Williams.

Williams beat Alize Cornet 6-3, 6-3 in the match preceding the Djokovic-Harrison encounter at Rod Laver Arena, which will be the likely venue for her big matchup Friday against Sharapova.

Reigning French Open champion Sharapova holds a 4-3 edge in career meetings, but Williams has won both of their meetings at Grand Slams — at Wimbledon in 2005 and 2007.

Venus' sister Serena, playing in the other half of the draw, had the day off Wednesday and was able to rest the right ankle she injured in her first-round match. She's set to play Garbine Muguruza on Thursday as she pursues her own sequence of three. She won Wimbledon and the U.S. Open last year and is aiming for a third major in a row.

Djokovic, a loser in the U.S. Open final last year to Andy Murray, looks seriously like he wants to atone for that defeat. He was relentless in beating the over-matched Harrison, winning the first set in just 20 minutes and the match in 1 ½ hours while making just 16 unforced errors.

"I tried to focus from the



**DOWN UNDER AND OUT:** Australia's Samantha Stosur serves during her second round match against China's Zheng Jie at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013. **Associated Press**

start," Djokovic said. "Obviously, I knew he had nothing to lose, he's going to come out and hit big serves. Pity for him, I don't think he played his best."

Sharapova sure did, particularly for someone who has precious little match "toughness" heading into the Australian Open. The second-seeded Russian beat Japan's Misaki Doi by the double-bagel score in just 47 minutes, her second consecutive match at Melbourne Park in which her opponent failed to win a game. Doi won only 15 points.

Sharapova, last year's Australian Open runner-up, pulled out of the Brisbane International with a right collarbone injury two weeks ago and had not played a competitive match this year until her 6-0, 6-0 win over fellow Russian Olga Puchkova in the first round Monday.

She is the first woman to post consecutive 6-0, 6-0 scorelines at a Grand Slam tournament since Wendy Turnbull at the Australian Open in 1985.

"I've been playing really aggressive and doing the right things," Sharapova said. "It's not easy to be up so much because you can have a few letdowns. You just have to try to concentrate. My job is to make it as easy as possible."

Venus Williams took advantage of the French player's double-fault to end the first set.

"Tennis ... is about winning when it's not your best day," said the 25th-seeded Williams. Next up "I'm going to have to be at my best against her."

The final match of Wednesday's session on the center court was disappointing, though not wholly unexpected, for the home

crowd and Australia's top-ranked female player.

Ninth-seeded Samantha Stosur, who has spoken of her anxiety over playing in front of her home fans, served twice for the match but double-faulted on match point in a 6-4, 1-6, 7-5 loss to China's Zheng Jie.

"It was a bit of a choke," Stosur admitted. "Obviously it's a hard one to take when you get yourself into a winning position and you lose five games straight."

Stosur, who had nine double-faults and 56 unforced errors, has never gone beyond the fourth round at her home Grand Slam, lost in the first round last year and also lost in her first matches at warm-up tournaments this year in Brisbane and Sydney.

"I needed to keep fighting and enjoy the match," Zheng said. "It's amazing I came back."

Earlier, fourth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska extended the year's best winning streak to 11 matches. She eased into the third round with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Romania's Irina-Camelia Begu and remains unbeaten this year,

including titles at warm-up tournaments this month at Auckland and Sydney.

"I can play even better," said Radwanska, who lost last year's Wimbledon final to Serena Williams. "I didn't really expect I could win that many matches in a row, and hopefully I can keep going."

Her last two trips to the Australian Open have ended in quarterfinal losses to the eventual champion — Kim Clijsters in 2011 and Victoria Azarenka last year.

With top-ranked Azarenka and Serena Williams on the other half of the draw, Radwanska's main obstacles to reaching the final are 2011 French Open champion Li Na, who beat Olga Goortsova of Belarus 6-2, 7-5 to reach the third round, and potential semifinal rivals Sharapova or No. 5 Angelique Kerber, who advanced with a 6-3, 6-1 win over Lucie Hradecka.

Serena Williams, who has lost only one match since her first-round exit at the French Open last year, canceled an outdoor practice session and moved it indoors to test out her sore ankle. □



**Serbia's Novak Djokovic makes a forehand return to Ryan Harrison of the US during their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013.** **Associated Press**



## Personal Health:

# That loving feeling takes a lot of work to maintain

JANE E. BRODY

© 2013 New York Times

When people fall in love and decide to marry, the expectation is nearly always that love and marriage and the happiness they bring will last; as the vows say, till death do us part. Only the most cynical among us would think, walking down the aisle, that if things don't work out, "We can always split." But the U.S. divorce rate is half the marriage rate, and that does not bode well for this cherished institution.

While some divorces are clearly justified by physical or emotional abuse, intolerable infidelity, addictive behavior or irreconcilable incompatibility, experts say many severed marriages seem to have just withered and died from a lack of effort to keep the embers of love alive.

Infatuation and passion have even shorter life spans, and must evolve into "companionate love, composed more of deep affection, connection and liking," according to Sonya Lyubomirsky, a professor of psychology at the University of California, Riverside. In her new book, "The Myths of Happiness," Ly-

bomirsky describes a slew of research-tested actions and words that can do wonders to keep love alive.

### BUILDING COMPANIONSHIP

Steps to slow, prevent or counteract hedonic adaptation and rescue a so-so marriage should be taken long before it is in trouble, Lyubomirsky urges. Her recommended strategies include making time to be together and talk, truly listening to each other, and expressing admiration and affection.

Lyubomirsky emphasizes "the importance of appreciation": Count your blessings and resist taking a spouse for granted. Routinely remind yourself and your partner of what you appreciate about the person and the marriage.

Also important is variety, which is innately stimulating and rewarding and "critical if we want to stave off adaptation," the psychologist writes. Mix things up, be spontaneous, change how you do things with your partner to keep your relationship "fresh, meaningful and positive."

Novelty is a powerful aphrodisiac that can also enhance the pleasures of

marital sex. But Lyubomirsky admits that "science has uncovered precious little about how to sustain passionate love." She likens its decline to growing up or growing old, "simply part of being human."

She suggests "increasing the amount of physical contact in your relationship by a set amount each week" within the comfort

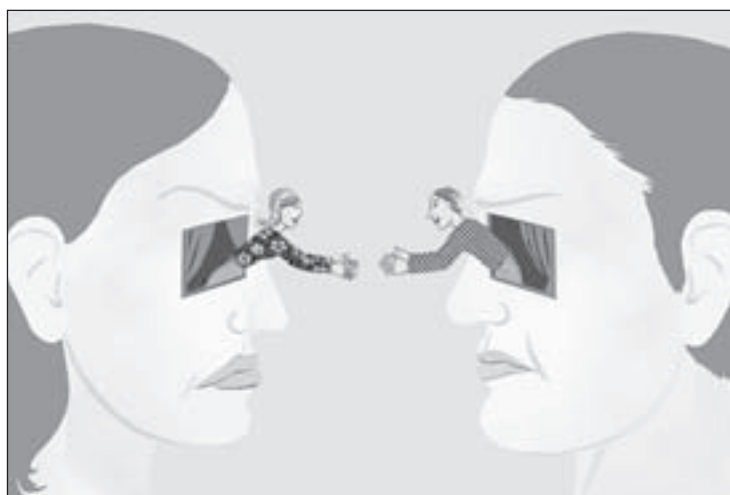
band said he missed being touched and hugged. And she wondered what the two of them would talk about when they became empty-nesters. Now is the time, dear friend, to work on a more mutually rewarding relationship if you want your marriage to last. Even a marriage that has been marred by negative, angry or hurtful remarks

social psychologist and professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, a flourishing relationship needs three times as many positive emotions as negative ones. In her forthcoming book, "Love 2.0," Fredrickson says that cultivating positive energy every day "motivates us to reach out for a hug more often or share an inspiring or silly idea or image."

Lyubomirsky reports that happily married couples average five positive verbal and emotional expressions toward one another for every negative expression, but "very unhappy couples display ratios of less than one to one."

To help get your relationship on a happier track, she suggests keeping a diary of positive and negative events that occur between you and your partner, and striving to increase the ratio of positive to negative.

She suggests asking yourself each morning, "What can I do for five minutes today to make my partner's life better?" The simplest acts, like sharing an amusing event, smiling, or being playful, can enhance marital happiness. □



**Small steps like taking time out for each other, trying new things and regular gestures of affection can help keep a marriage strong.**

(Yvetta Fedorova/The New York Times)

level of the spouses' personalities, backgrounds and openness to nonsexual touch.

### POSITIVE ENERGY

A long-married friend recently told me that her hus-

band can often be rescued by filling the home with words and actions that elicit positive emotions, psychology research has shown.

According to studies by Barbara L. Fredrickson, a

## UK considers preventative drugs for breast cancer

**LONDON (AP)** — Britain's National Health Service may soon offer women at high risk of developing breast cancer drugs normally used to treat the disease as a prevention strategy.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on Tuesday announced draft guidelines that would make the drugs available.

A final decision is expected this spring after medical groups, charities and patients' organization respond to the proposal.

The proposal suggests that tamoxifen or raloxifene should be used by women found at high risk of developing the disease. Clinical trials have shown the drugs can be effective in cutting breast cancer rates, and the medications are used both to treat and to prevent the disease in other countries, including the United States.

Initial response from charities and patients groups to the proposal has been favorable.

The charity Breakthrough Breast Cancer called the move "an historic step" in the fight against the deadly disease. Specialist nurse Jackie Harris with the Breast Cancer Care charity said the proposal could be "very good news" for women with a family history of breast cancer, but doctors cautioned that the drugs cannot be viewed as a vaccine against breast cancer. □



**Tamoxifen has been proposed for use in a preventative strategy for women at high risk of breast cancer.**

(Handout Photo)



# NRA shooting game no longer for preschoolers

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A new shooting game for mobile devices by the powerful National Rifle Association is no longer being labeled suitable for preschoolers. The move came amid pushback from liberal organizations that called the game tasteless and criticized the timing of its release one month after a horrific elementary school shooting.

"NRA: Practice Range" changed its age recommendation on Tuesday from 4 years and up to at least 12 years of age with an added warning that the game depicts "intense" and "realistic" violence. The game was released Sunday, amid a fierce national debate over gun control following of the Dec. 14 shooting at a Connecticut elementary school that left 20 children and

six adults dead. President Barack Obama is expected to announce a plan this week for curbing gun violence, including proposals for stricter gun laws that the NRA opposes.

A progressive advocacy organization, Courage Campaign, on Tuesday circulated an online petition asking Apple to drop the free mobile application from its store.

"This is a classic example of everything that is wrong with the NRA. Instead of coming to the table with constructive ideas to reduce gun violence, the NRA is instead developing a video game that glorifies guns and gun violence," said Adam Bink, director of the group's online programs.

The NRA, the country's most influential pro-gun group, did not respond to repeated calls for comment. It

also hasn't claimed ownership of the game, with no mention of it on its website. But the app refers to itself as the "National Rifle Association's new mobile nerve center, delivering one-touch access to the NRA network of news, laws, facts, knowledge, safety tips, educational materials and online resources." The main menu in the game includes an NRA information section that leads users to the lobbying group's website. Apple declined to comment.

A week after the Newtown shooting, NRA executive Wayne LaPierre blamed violent video games and movies, and not guns, for contributing to mass shootings.

The game actually sounds more stirring than it is, which is really a high-tech pamphlet to disseminate the NRA's political mes-



**This is a screen grab of new shooting a game for mobile devices tied to the National Rifle Association. This game is no longer being labeled suitable for preschoolers. "NRA: Practice Range" changed its age recommendation Tuesday from 4 years and up to at least 12 years of age, with an added warning that the game depicts realistic violence.**

Associated Press

sage. The game lets a user fire various simulated weapons to hit targets on shooting ranges. The app does not depict the shooting of living targets. The

only thing resembling a life form is the camouflage-clad right hand players see holding the gun, and the occasional left hand used to reload. □

# Disney unveils own 'Skylanders'-like franchise

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Captain Jack Sparrow driving Cinderella's carriage? Mr. Incredible swinging the Queen of Hearts' flamingo mallet? Sulley from "Monsters, Inc." galloping around on Bullseye from "Toy Story"? Those are just a few of the silly scenarios that could become a virtual reality with "Disney Infinity," a new endeavor from Disney combining a video game with a toy line.

The Walt Disney Co. revealed plans Tuesday to launch what it's billing as a new gaming platform that's strikingly similar to Activision's successful "Skylanders" franchise.

"Infinity" will blend real-life toy figures depicting various Disney personalities with a sprawling virtual world where those same characters can do stuff like race cars, play games and construct buildings together, as well as go on adventures in their own realms.

"We wanted to make it so that we could have lots of characters from lots of stories we create at Pixar



**This undated publicity photo released by the Walt Disney Company shows the video game, Disney Infinity: Pirates of the Caribbean Play Set.**

Associated Press

and Disney come together in one place," Disney-Pixar animation chief John Lasseter said at the Tuesday unveiling of "Infinity" at Hollywood's El Capitan Theatre.

"Infinity" will be available for the Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, Wii, Wii U, Nintendo 3DS, PC, online and on tablets and smartphones. It's being crafted by Disney-owned developer Avalanche Software, which created the 2010 game based on "Toy Story 3." That game's "toy box" mode served as inspiration for what eventually became "Infinity."

Akin to "Skylanders," the plastic figures have the

ability to store data and transmit characters' histories through a reader. Also like "Skylanders," the toys can work between consoles, meaning a Mr. Incredible figure can seamlessly go from a PS3 in your living room to the Wii in your friend's basement.

The game is essentially divided into two modes: "play sets," featuring structured adventures where gamers can collect vehicles, scenery, gadgets and more; and the "toy box," an unstructured open world where users' imaginations can run wild, much like the games "Minecraft" and "LittleBigPlanet." Both modes allow for gamers to

play cooperatively or online together.

"What's staggering about this is not what's happening right now but the potential of what's gonna happen when it gets out there in the hands of kids, adults and creative people just getting lost in there creating stuff," said Lasseter. "We can't even imagine it right now."

"Infinity" serves as something of a homecoming for Disney's very different heroes. While disparate Disney characters can sometimes be spotted together in theme parks, on ice or the merchandising world, they're rarely united within any of Disney's fictional domains.

Was there any uneasiness about not only aligning these diverse properties, but also giving up control of such beloved creations to users?

"The truthful answer is yes," said John Pleasants, co-president at Disney Interactive.

"There was both apprehension and excitement. In the end, excitement and the potential for new

opportunities won over. It wasn't without a lot of conversations with a lot of stakeholders though."

Fictionally, the characters depicted in "Infinity" are not the actual characters themselves but the real-world toys come to life on screen.

To that end, the figures all maintain the same toy-inspired style, more apparent in the scallywags from "Pirates of the Caribbean" than say the playthings from "Toy Story," and the game's graphics are equally toy-like.

"Infinity" is set to debut in June, along with "Monsters University," the 3-D prequel to the 2001 Disney-Pixar film "Monsters, Inc."

Despite the continued success of the Disney Co. as a whole, Disney's interactive division, responsible for games like the console adventure "Epic Mickey" and the online virtual world "Club Penguin," operated at a loss last year. If "Infinity" becomes as financially successful as "Skylanders," it could provide a much needed boost to Disney Interactive. □



## Goldman Sachs' net surges on bank revenues

**STEVE ROTHWELL**  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Goldman Sachs went some way to restoring its reputation as a Wall Street powerhouse after its earnings almost tripled in the fourth quarter, handily beating analysts' estimates, as investment banking revenues surged. The investment bank earned \$2.83 billion after paying preferred dividends, compared with \$978 million a year earlier in the period ending Dec. 31, 2012.

The bank's debt underwriting business profited from a rally in bonds and a surge in demand for debt securities. Goldman's debt underwriting business earned \$1.96 billion in revenues for the year, its second-best annual performance and the highest since 2007. An increase in stock underwriting also helped boost revenues.

"The fourth quarter reminds us a little of the old days and should give investors confidence in Goldman's future earnings power," Glenn Schorr, an analyst at Nomura, wrote in note to clients.

Goldman's stock jumped \$3.84 to \$139.40. The stock has returned 43 percent in the past 12 months.

Analysts were encouraged that revenue growth of 53 percent for the year outpaced a small increase in employee compensation, helping the bank boost its profit margins. Paying employees is Goldman's biggest single cost, accounting for more than half of its total operating expenses. The bank's employee compensation costs rose 6 percent to \$12.94 billion for 2012. The bank also reduced its headcount by 3 percent to 32,400. That means that the average employee at the bank earns almost \$400,000 a year.

"While economic conditions remained challenging for much of the last year, the strengths of our business model and client franchise. □

## US consumer prices unchanged in December

**C. S. RUGABER**  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Lower gas costs offset more expensive food and higher rents to keep a measure of U.S. consumer prices flat last month.

The Labor Department said Wednesday that food prices increased 0.2 percent in December from November. Rents and airline fares also rose. Gasoline prices fell a seasonally adjusted 2.3 percent.

The flat reading of the December consumer price index caps a year when inflation slowed. Consumer prices rose only 1.7 percent in 2012, down from 3 percent in 2011.

Food prices increased 1.8 percent last year, down from 4.7 percent in 2011. Gas prices rose just 1.7 percent last year. That followed annual gains of nearly 10 percent in 2011 and roughly 14 percent in 2010.

Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, core prices ticked up just

0.1 percent in December compared with November. And core prices rose only 1.9 percent in 2012.



**Tagged merchandise hangs on a rack at an Old Navy store in Methuen, Mass. Lower gas costs offset more expensive food and higher rents to keep a measure of U.S. consumer prices flat in December. The Labor Department said Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013, that food prices increased 0.2% in December from November. Rents and airline fares also rose. Gasoline prices fell a seasonally adjusted 2.3%.**

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

That's below the Federal Reserve's inflation target of 2 percent. And it's lower than 2011's increase of 2.2 percent.

Prices for household furniture, clothing and used cars declined in December from November.

Mild inflation leaves con-

sumers with more money to spend, which is good for the economy. Lower inflation also makes it easier for

for fear of losing customers. That's helped keep inflation tame. Workers also aren't able to demand higher wages when growth is weak. That limits their ability to pay more.

Price increases will likely remain mild, economists say. "It remains our view that core inflation has peaked ... and will continue to drift lower in coming quarters as weak global economic activity weighs on pricing power," Joshua Shapiro, chief U.S. economist at MFR Inc., said in a note to clients.

Gas prices have fallen sharply in recent months after spiking this summer. Prices at the pump averaged \$3.29 a gallon (86 cents a liter) nationwide on Wednesday. That's about the same as a month ago and well below summer prices that nearly touched \$4 a gallon (\$1.05 a liter). Prices are likely to stay low in the early months of 2013, based on a measure of wholesale prices reported Tuesday. □

## Homebuilder confidence steady near 7-year high

**ALEX VEIGA**  
AP Real Estate Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Confidence among U.S. homebuilders held steady in January at the highest level in nearly seven years, but builders are feeling slightly less optimistic about their prospects for sales over the next six months.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index released Wednesday held at 47, the same as in December and the highest reading since April 2006, just before the housing bubble burst.

Readings below 50 suggest negative sentiment about the housing market. The last time the index was at that level or higher was in April 2006 when the reading was 51. It began trending higher in October 2011, when it stood at 17.

The latest index, which is based on responses from 402 builders, comes at a time of improving fortunes for homebuilders, many of



**A construction worker works at a new home in Chicago. Confidence among U.S. homebuilders remained unchanged January from December at the highest level in nearly seven years, but builders are feeling slightly less optimistic about their prospects for sales over the next six months.**

(AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

which have seen sales improve over the past year amid the best market for newly built homes since the housing boom.

Stable job gains, record-low mortgage rates and a tight supply of new and previously occupied homes available for sale have helped fuel home

sales and drive prices higher, albeit from very low levels. In November, sales of previously occupied homes rose to their highest level in three years, while new-home sales reached a 2 1/2-year high. Those factors have helped make homebuilders more confident and spurred new

home construction.

Even so, homebuilders' confidence remains restrained by uncertainty over how Washington lawmakers will resolve budget and tax issues, said Barry Rutenberg, the NAHB's chairman.

How lawmakers deal with those challenges could put a damper on housing demand in the coming months, he added.

A key concern is the possibility that Congress, which appears to be moving toward overhauling the tax code this year, will alter or eliminate the mortgage interest deduction.

The NAHB has said that tampering with homeowners' ability to deduct their mortgage interest payments from their taxable income could dampen demand for housing. Builders also see tighter mortgage-lending standards and problems with the home appraisal process as impediments to a full housing recovery. □



## American Airlines has Q4 profit

JAD MOUAWAD

© 2013 New York Times

American Airlines, which is in the final stages of bankruptcy and under pressure from US Airways to merge, on Wednesday reported a fourth-quarter profit mostly because of lower costs and some reorganization credits.

Without these special items, including some bankruptcy-related tax benefits, the company had a loss in the quarter. In providing the figures, the carrier is eager to prove that its reorganization has been successful. A decision about the company's fate could come in the next few weeks as the board of AMR, American's corporate parent, considers its options. These include a merger with US Airways while American is still under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Pressure has been mounting for such an outcome. US Airways has repeatedly signaled its interest in a merger and last year struck a deal with American's three labor groups, representing pilots, flight attendants and mechanics, to support such a consolidation. Since then, these groups have worked out a merger blueprint with their counterparts at US Airways. But American's management has fought against a merger. □

## Boeing drags Dow lower; other indexes close mixed

MATTHEW CRAFT  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — More problems for Boeing's 787 sent the aircraft maker's stock down sharply Wednesday, dragging the Dow Jones industrial average lower.

Japan's two biggest airlines grounded all their Boeing 787s for safety checks Wednesday after one was forced to make an emergency landing. The plane, known as the Dreamliner, has been plagued by a series of problems this year, including a battery fire and fuel leaks. Boeing's stock sank \$2.60 to \$74.34, a loss of 3 percent.

The Dow lost 23.66 points to close at 13,511.23. Without Boeing's drop, the Dow would have ended the day nearly flat.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index inched up 0.29 to 1,472.63. A gain in Apple helped pull the Nasdaq composite up 6.77 points to 3,117.54.

Apple rose \$20.17 to \$506.09, ending a three-day slide. The world's largest publicly traded company closed below \$500 on Tuesday for the first time in nearly a year. Concerns that the popularity of its iPhone is waning have pushed Apple's stock down 5 percent this month. Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase, America's largest bank, rose after both posted quarterly results that trounced analysts' estimates.

Harry Clark, chairman of Clark Capital Management Group in Philadelphia, described JPMorgan's numbers as staggering. The bank's quarterly earnings jumped 55 percent and total revenue for the year hit \$100 billion.

"Their earnings are just ridiculously good," Clark said.

keep the board informed of potential problems and using unapproved models for measuring trading risks. Goldman Sachs gained \$5.50 to \$141.09, a 4 percent jump. The investment bank's profits nearly tripled in the fourth quarter of last year. Goldman's bond underwriting business had its

consumer prices were flat last month as gas prices sank. The December reading of the consumer price index capped a year of tame inflation. Consumer prices increased just 1.7 percent in 2012, down from 3 percent in 2011.

The report led traders to push up prices for Treasuries, knocking yields down. The 10-year Treasury note's yield slipped to 1.82 percent. The yield, used to set mortgages and a wide variety of other loans, ended Tuesday at 1.84 percent. Among other companies making news:

— Wendy's rose 4 percent, or 18 cents, to \$5.08. The hamburger chain, known for its Frosty shakes and square burgers, earnings topped Wall Street's estimates, even as a key indicator of sales at North American restaurants dipped slightly.

— Chipotle Mexican Grill dropped 6 percent. The burrito chain warned that its quarterly earnings would fall short of previous forecasts because it underestimated the hit it would take from higher food costs. Chipotle's stock lost \$16.38 to \$280.94.

— Genworth Financial jumped 9 percent, the largest gain in the S&P 500. The financial services company laid out a plan to reorganize its business, including putting its mortgage unit under a new company. Genworth's stock gained 72 cents to \$8.85. □



Trader Jonathan Corpina, right, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks closed mixed on Wall Street Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013, with Boeing's ongoing problems weighing down the Dow.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

"It shows you that these giants can make money in any type of environment." Slightly smaller financial firms, such as Northern Trust and Bank of New York Mellon, reported weaker earnings and their stocks sank. JPMorgan Chase gained 47 cents to \$46.82. The bank's stunning results were offset by an internal review of a \$6 billion trading loss on credit derivatives. JPMorgan's board of directors criticized executives for failing to

best year since the financial crisis, thanks to strong demand for fixed-income investments and companies lining up to borrow at historically cheap rates. Analysts forecast that companies in the S&P 500 will report a 3.2 percent increase in fourth-quarter earnings. Financial firms and consumer-discretionary companies are expected to post the biggest growth, according to S&P Capital IQ. The Labor Department said

# NEED CASH TODAY?

## PAWN OR SELL YOUR GOLD



### VISIT US & COMPARE FOR YOURSELF!



## JUWELENHUISJE

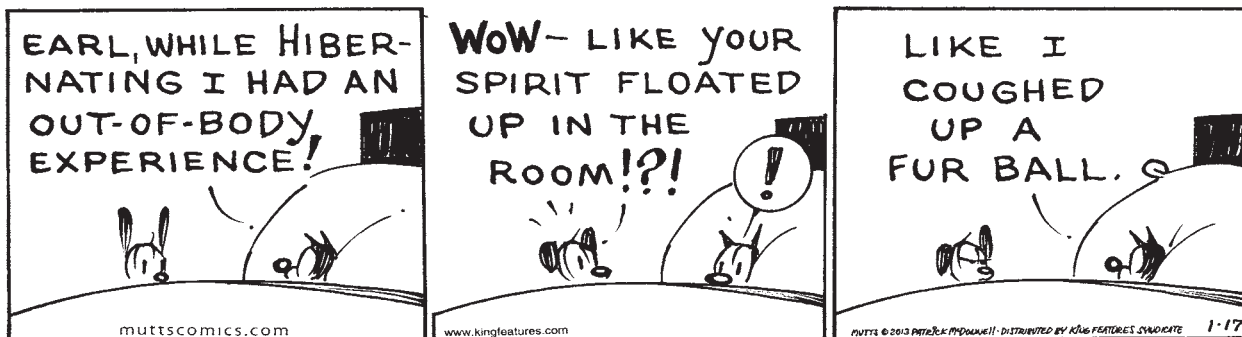
OPEN 10AM - 6PM MONDAY - FRIDAY



ORANJESTAD WERFSTRAAT 7 LOK. 12 TEL 588 4141 ☎ SAN NICOLAS B. V/D VEEN ZEPPENFELDSTRAAT 14 TEL 584 4141



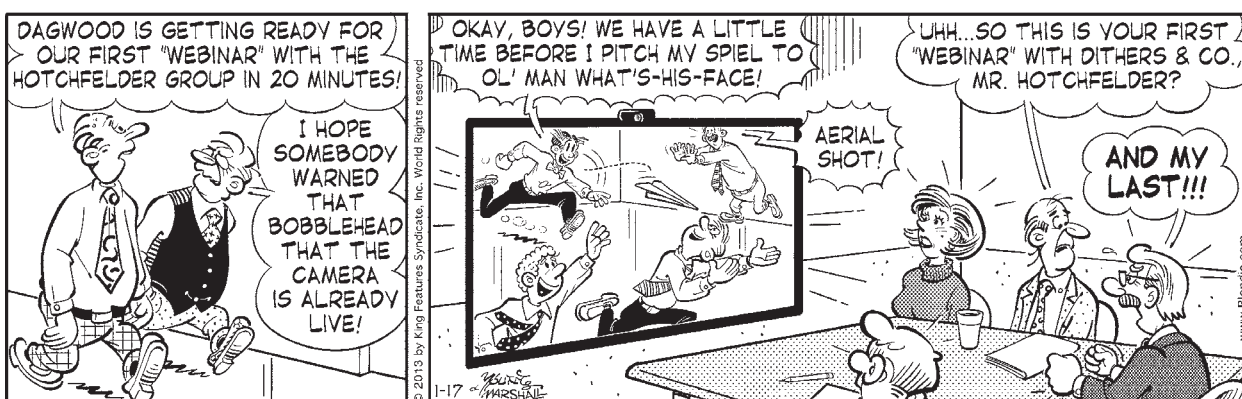
## Mutts



## 6 Chix



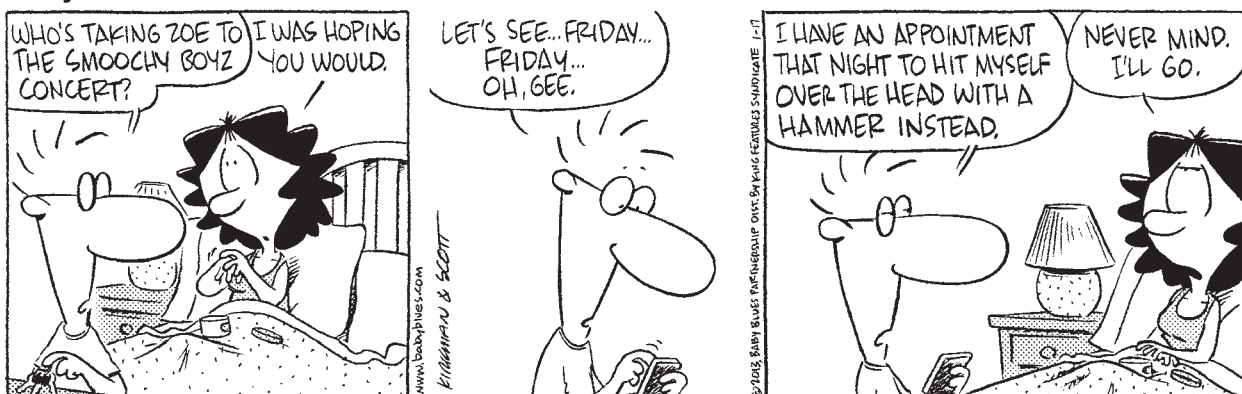
## Blondie



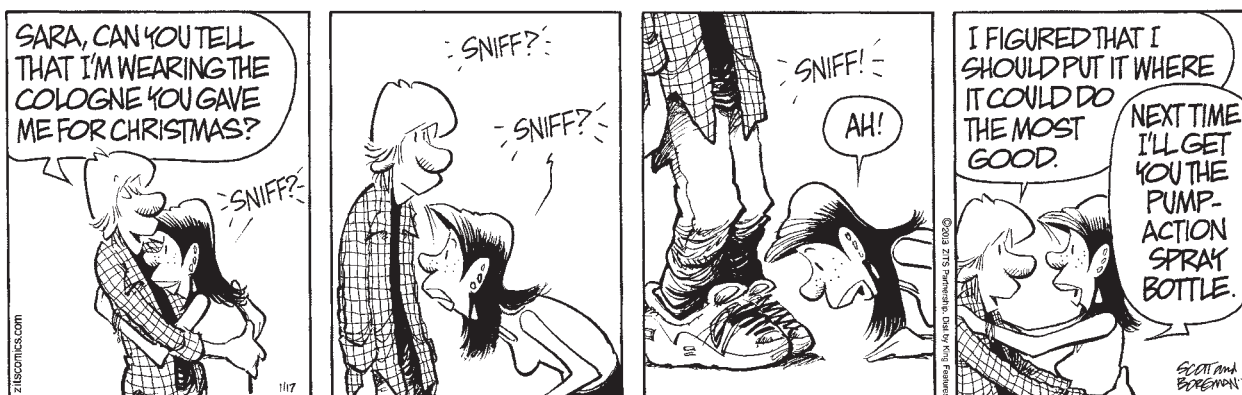
## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

4	3		6			2		8
		5	8			4		
								7
1			4		3			
				7				
			2		6			4
9								
			5			7	1	
8		4			7		3	2

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/17

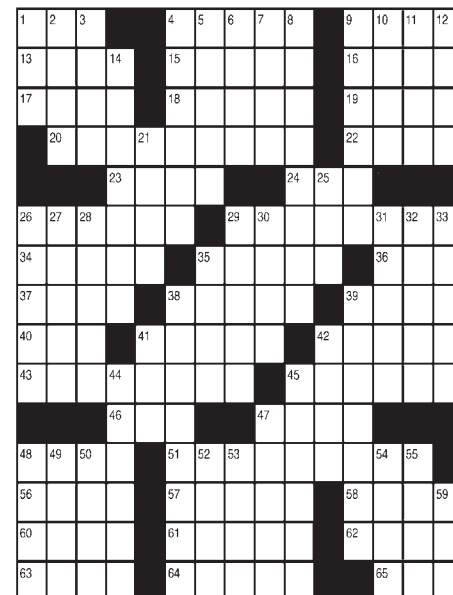
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	1	5	2	9	6	3	7	4
4	6	9	7	3	5	1	2	8
7	3	2	4	1	8	5	6	9
5	2	6	9	8	1	4	3	7
3	4	7	5	6	2	9	8	1
1	9	8	3	4	7	2	5	6
2	8	4	1	7	3	6	9	5
9	7	3	6	5	4	8	1	2
6	5	1	8	2	9	7	4	3

## ACROSS

- Occupation
- Jewish leader
- Edinburgh man
- Large kitchen appliance
- Actress Burstyn
- Rain hard
- Fence opening
- one's trade; works hard
- Ascend
- Small long-haired dog
- Poker term
- Like pink cheeks
- Rule
- Mr. Einstein
- Fictional detective — Holmes
- "Beauty and the —"
- Prison, slangily
- Sillet
- Finest
- Burial chamber
- Nude
- Sept.'s follower
- Young horses
- Medicinal ointment
- Seminary subject
- Groups formed to help sheriffs
- Actor Brynner
- away; galloped off
- 24-hour periods
- Product sold by State Farm
- Hilarious person
- In \_\_\_; unsure
- Harlow or Stapleton
- On \_\_\_; nervous
- Deceitful cunning
- Sew lightly
- In a crafty way
- With hands on \_\_\_; akimbo
- Gemstones
- Sculpt
- Leg joints
- Run slowly



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/17/13

## Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

PACT	LEANS	SPED
EVER	UNCAP	CUBA
TINY	NAMBY	PAMBY
EST	FACE	AMASS
EDICT	RIP	
SANITY	KANSAS	
AGNES	ERECT	FEB
WRIT	PLANK	STAR
SEA	HALTS	THETA
ELDERS	HEARST	
INK	FORMS	
ISAAC	BAUM	HAM
RENDEZVOUS	HAVE	
KATE	AISLE	EVIL
SLIM	PESTS	REDD

(c) 2013 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

1/17/13

## DOWN

- Run slowly
- Maple or pine
- Closest
- Divide into categories
- Noah's boat
- Monastery head
- Freeloader
- Sew lightly
- In a crafty way
- With hands on \_\_\_; akimbo
- Gemstones
- Sculpt
- Leg joints
- Rugged cliff

- Successor to Warren Harding
- Barkless dog
- Grippe
- Ice cream treat
- Mollusk bearing a pearl
- Redcap
- Russia's dollar
- Sketched
- Helper
- Meditative exercise
- Part of speech
- Clubs or hearts
- Penny
- Every
- Scottish "no"





An elector signs documents as she casts her votes with other members of the state's Electoral College Monday, Dec. 17, 2012, in Olympia, Wash.

Associated Press

## Detective: Prankster registered to vote as 'Barack H. Obama'

JOE MANDAK  
Associated Press

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — A U.S. detective is trying to figure out how a prankster was able to fill out a 2008 voter registration card signed "Barack H. Obama." Butler County Detective Scott Roskovski says nobody voted using the bogus voter registration card, though filling it out falsely could be a felony. Elections officials in Pennsylvania had processed the card, and it went into the state's computerized database with the last name "Obana" — that is, with an "n" in place of the "m." But Roskovski says whoever did it was clearly trying to register using President Barack Obama's name. □

**FOR SALE**  
**Renaissance Aruba Beach Resort**  
wk 2 unit 2309  
wk 4 unit 2343  
both with pool and ocean views  
(508) 224-7575 (USA)  
e-mail: odomirox @msn.com

198397



## FOR SALE

### Las Rocas 17-D

We just listed this 3-bedroom/ 2 bathroom first floor, one-storey courtyard condo, located in the upscale community 'Tierra del Sol' with lots of community facilities. The condo is well maintained, recently painted and ready to move in. The total area is 139m² and comes with a one car garage.

**US \$ 389.000,-**



Best & Solid Real Estate

**Palm Beach 4-G**  
**Tel.: 586 4242**  
**www.arubahouses.com**

Tel: 582-0697 / 583-7484  
Schotland str. 70

**Extend your Stay at**  
**Quality Apartments**

\*Studio & Loft Apts.      \*Fully Furnished  
\*Kitchen / Airco / Cable TV      \*Swimming Pool  
Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 4 large supermarkets.  
Feel free to contact or visit us.  
Mon - Fri: 8am-7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am-5pm.



# Classifieds

## FOR RENT

Rental needed for 1/19 and 1/20  
two nights for 2 people  
local till  
local cell: 565-9394  
E-mail: usmc.53w@aol.com

198390

## FOR SALE

**House For Sale by owner**  
close to the beach in Alto Vista in nice Residential area, property land, smard electricity, hot water, price reduce \$150.000 for more inf. 594-6639

198386

## FOR SALE

wk7 Presidential wk large luxury studio Divi Golf + beach rm 2105 ground affinity pool patio all amenities \$5950  
Rental considered  
508-651-0016  
E-mail: [rmwjmw@aol.com](mailto:rmwjmw@aol.com)  
local until 1/21 565-9394

198392

## FOR SALE

**Renaissance Ocean View**  
wk 1 -137 \$10.500  
wk 16 two weeks to Rent \$1000 a week  
Call 1-781-760-1048 (cell)  
1-781-324-8130  
Joe or mary Summers

114364

## FOR SALE

**Paradise Beach Villas**  
2 Bedroom- ocean pool view week 2&3 \$8500 per week week 2 one bedroom ocean and pool view \$5000  
call room 207 jan. 12-19  
e-mail: jpenn34769@aol.com  
after jan. 19 call. 920-7882750

198395A

## FOR RENT

**Paradise Beach Villas 2014**  
2 Bedroom- ocean pool view week 2&3 \$1200 per week week 2 one bedroom pool ocean view \$1000 per week  
call room 207 jan. 12-19  
e-mail: jpenn34769@aol.com  
after jan. 19 call. 920-7882750

198395

## FOR SALE

**Paradise Beach Villas**  
deluxe 1 Bedr  
Room 227 week 1 ocean front  
US\$14.900.00  
Call: 737-3000  
itraruba@gmail.com

198381

## FOR RENT

7 day's ocean front 1 bedroom  
Riu Palace Jan 25-Feb1, 2013  
Aruba cell. 566-7433 or 586-3900 ext. 177  
695.00  
Ask for Ron

198398

## Christmas & New Year weeks 2013

2 x one bedroom timeshare suite for rent in Aruba for wk 51 and wk 52 for 2013  
contact:  
execsun2000@yahoo.com

198169

## FOR SALE

**Timeshare for sale**  
2 wks at the Marriott Aruba Surf Club 2 Br / 2 B lock out unit  
Platinum time -ocean view  
NDZ1543@verison.net  
732-6687448 (US)

197996

## FOR SALE

**Paradise Villas wk 2 studio \$2600 and wk 6 studio at Mill Resort \$2750**  
508-651-0016  
E-mail: [rmwjmw@aol.com](mailto:rmwjmw@aol.com)  
local until 1/21 565-9394

198391

## FOR SALE

**Condo in Gold Coast**  
Everything's included in this 2 Br 2 ½ bath unit check it out now at [www.arubarental.info](http://www.arubarental.info)  
or call 562-0735 free pick up

198153

## WEEK 52 WOW

**Divi Village Golf Resort**  
Great ocean & pool view  
only \$6950  
contact 564-2686 until 01/07/12 or z3837@yahoo.de

198184

## FOR SALE

**Divi Phoenix Luxury**  
1 bedr 1 ½ bath 4 sleep  
new bldng 5 fl. ocean front  
1 st and 2nd wk  
E-mail: 1fabor1@gmail.com  
or call tel. 586-6066 Room #753

198361

## FOR SALE

**Casa del Mar**  
Rm 1111 Presidential Suite  
wk 1+2 \$17.000 per week  
contact (Aruba) 560-1288 until 2/1/13  
(USA) 203-483-5700  
E-mail: costelli@snet.net

198362

## FOR SALE

**Casa del Mar**  
Rm 1117 Presidential Suite  
wk 2 \$17.000  
contact (Aruba) 560-1288 until 1/26/13  
(USA) 203-421-3531  
E-mail: roberta.ambrose@att.net

198362

## CASA DEL MAR

2 Bedroom 2 Bath ocean front  
Rm 1224 wk 2 \$27 K  
[lemmesell@aol.com](mailto:lemmesell@aol.com)  
Casa del Mar 2 br 2 ba pool/ocean side Rm 1318 wk 3 \$22K

198359



## DOCTOR ON DUTY ORANJESTAD

**17 January**  
Dr. John Croes



## Pharmacy on duty ORANJESTAD:

**Botica Oduber Tel: 582-1780**

**SAN NICOLAAS:**

**Botica San Nicolas Tel: 584-5712**



## Police

Police	581-1100
Oranjestad	582-4000
Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolas	584-5000

## Emergency Numbers



Emergency	911
Police	100
Fire Dept.	115
Fire Dept. II	582-1108
Police Tipline	11141
Hospital	527-4000

## Oranjestad

Ambulance	582-1234
Police	582-4000

## San Nicolas

Ambulance	584-5050
Police Station	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

## Services

Information	118
Setar	582-5151
Taxi	582-2116
Taxi- Tas	587-5900
Professional Taxi	588-0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587-2300
Service Aruba	583-3232

## CRUISE SHIP



Jan. 17 Aidaluna  
Oceana

Aruba Airport	Tel: 524-2424
American Airlines	Tel: 582-2700
Avianca	Tel: 588-0059
Dutch Antilles	Tel: 588-1900
Insel Air	Tel: 588-9314
Jet Blue	Tel: 588-2244
Spirit Airlines	Tel: 582-7117
Suriname Airways	Tel: 582-7896
Tiara Air	Tel: 588-4272
Venezolana	Tel: 583-7674

## Foundation Fellowship Clinic

Tel: 584-6440  
Alcoholism & Drug Addiction,  
Anonymity guaranteed  
**Foundation Anti-Droga**

## Aruba

(FADA) Tel: 583-2999

## Foundation Respetami

Tel: 582-4433

## Diabetic Foundation Arubano

Tel: 583-3808

## Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989

## Foundation Amor pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976

## Women in Difficulties Foundation

Tel: 583-5400



# Race is on for EU's \$1.3B science projects

**FRANK JORDANS**  
**Associated Press**

**BERLIN (AP)** — Call it Europe's Got Talent for geeks. Teams of scientists from across the continent are vying for a funding bonanza that could see two of them receive up to €1 billion (\$1.33 billion) over 10 years to keep Europe at the cutting edge of technology.

The contest began with 26 proposals that were whittled down to six last year. Just four have made it to the final round.

They include a plan to develop digital guardian angels that would keep people safe from harm; a massive data-crunching machine to simulate social, economic and technological change on our planet; an effort to craft the most accurate computer model of the human brain to date; and a team working to find better ways to produce and employ graphene — an ultra-thin material that could revolutionize manufacturing of everything from airplanes to computer chips. The two winners will be announced by the European Union's executive branch in Brussels on Jan. 28. Initially, each project will receive €54 million from the European Union's research budget, an amount that will be matched by national governments and other sources. Further funding will depend on whether they reach certain milestones within the first 30 months, but over a decade it could total €1 billion each.

Securing such vast sums will be made harder by the austerity measures imposed by many financially drained European govern-



In this May 9, 2011 file picture people use a infrared-DIC microscopy to do multi-neuron patch-clamp recording in the Blue Brain team and the Human Brain Project (HBP) laboratory of the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL), in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Associated Press

ments.

Still, the senior EU official overseeing the so-called Future and Emerging Technologies Flagships program is confident the money will be made available and insists the investment is necessary if Europe wants to match the success the CERN labs on the Swiss-French border that have become the world's premier center for particle research thanks to their \$10 billion atom smasher.

"Supporting research and development is not a nice-to-have, it is essential because no investment means no chance for a better future," Neelie Kroes told The Associated Press in an email. "And especially during a crisis we all need something positive to look ahead to. Just cutting public expenditure and austerity don't bring new growth and jobs."

Kroes, whose title is European Commissioner for Digital Agenda, believes it will pay off. "By pooling resources across the EU and focus-

ing on the two best projects we get a good shot at a manifold return on the investment," she said.

Contemporary problems but also those that could arise in future. Climate change, ageing societies and a shortage of natural resources all loom large in predictions for Europe's future. So far, solutions to these problems have been limited, partly because of their sheer scope. "The world of today has become so complex that it's beyond our control," said Dirk Helbing, a professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology ETH in Zurich. Helbing is the coordinator of the FuturICT team that aims to monitor the state of the planet

of it as the telescope of the 21st century to help get better insight into problems," Helbing said.

A rival project led by scientists at ETH's sister school EPFL in Lausanne, focuses less on the planetary and more on the personal.

Adrian Ionescu, a professor of nanoelectronics at EPFL, says the booming in mobile devices has concentrated mainly on communication and gaming. His team's Guardian Angels project aims to develop wearable, self-powered gadgets that can warn their users of danger, encourage them to exercise, and collect environmental and health information that could be of use to doctors.

Ionescu claims such devices could save large sums in health care costs by preventing diseases and helping manage them.

The components to make them are already available, he said. The key is integrating them all into one system — a process he likened to the effort made by the United States in the 1960s to put a man on the moon. One of the most promising materials for electronic devices of the future is graphene — the sole focus of a third finalist. It has been touted as a solution to problems as wide-ranging as mopping up nuclear spills, making airplanes more fuel efficient and speeding up computer chips. Russian-born scientists Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov received the 2010 Nobel Prize in physics for their experiments with this two-dimensional "wonder material" that's up to 300 times stronger than steel — but much lighter.

The problem is how to manufacture it efficiently.

"There is still quite a bit of research to be done," said Jari Kinaret, professor of applied physics at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Kinaret said the long-term funding offered by the EU program would be key to developing what he called a "disruptive technology." □



In this May 9, 2011 file picture scientist Ying Shi looks into a microscope at the Blue Brain team and the Human Brain Project (HBP) of the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL), in Lausanne, Switzerland. The Blue Brain team works together with other European and international partners to propose the Human Brain Project (HBP), a candidate for funding under the EU's FET Flagship program. The Blue Brain Project is an attempt to create a synthetic brain by reverse-engineering the mammalian brain down to the molecular level.

Associated Press

ing on the two best projects we get a good shot at a manifold return on the investment," she said. Switzerland, Norway, Israel and Turkey, which are not part of the 27-nation EU, are also partnering in the program. One explicit aim of the program is to encourage scientists to address not just

in real time using growing mountains of data now at our fingertips. Anybody will be able to tap into the system to explore possible future scenarios in much the same way as the meteorologists can now forecast the weather with a certain degree of accuracy. "Think

**Call 565-9535**

*Honey Dolls*

Massage and escort service

*Beautiful Latin Girls*

**Pick-up & Delivery 24/7**

Serving Men-Couples- Women  
All Genders

**Red Light Tour**

*Bachelor Party Specialized*

The best in the Caribbean

**SKY**

**In ARUBA**

24 hours Services

**Massage Escort**

Experience one happy island the way you'll never forget

- Beautiful girls • Serving man • Woman • Couples
- Private Tour Red Light District • Bachelors Party

Rapid Delivery **Cell: 660-4660** In and out call

E-mail: sky\_massage@hotmail.com



# Will torture questions hurt 'ZDT's Oscar chances?

CHRISTY LEMIRE

AP Movie Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — A few weeks ago, "Zero Dark Thirty" seemed well on its way to capturing the Academy Award for best picture. It was winning early critic awards and gaining the kind of momentum a movie needs to win Hollywood's biggest prize.

Much was made about the authenticity of the film by director Kathryn Bigelow and screenwriter Mark Boal, who used insider access to tell the sweeping, meticulously detailed story of the decade-long search for Osama bin Laden.

Then last week, "Zero Dark Thirty" won five Academy Award nominations, including for best picture, and this past weekend, it was No. 1 at the domestic box office with a gross of nearly \$25 million.

Yet what may be the film's biggest challenge in the pursuit of Oscar glory is playing out from Hollywood to Washington as debate mounts over the film's accuracy in its depiction of torture and whether the movie itself endorses the use of torture.

Lawmakers are also inves-



This undated publicity photo released by Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc. shows Navy SEALs seen through the greenish glow of night vision goggles, as they prepare to breach a locked door in Osama Bin Laden's compound in Columbia Pictures' hyper-realistic new action thriller from director Kathryn Bigelow, "Zero Dark Thirty."

Associated Press

tigating whether the CIA gave Bigelow and Boal false information as to whether enhanced interrogation tactics led directly to the 2011 capture and killing of the al-Qaida leader in Pakistan.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences failed to nominate Bigelow for director, and on Sunday

night, "Zero Dark Thirty" received only one Golden Globe Award from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association — for best actress Jessica Chastain's portrayal of a driven CIA operative. Could congressional scrutiny over such an emotionally charged issue as torture be affecting "Zero Dark Thirty's" awards mo-

mentum? Will the bicoastal backlash ultimately prevent the film from winning the best picture award when the Oscars are presented on Feb. 24? Could the dispute also have a bearing on other top honors to be given in the weeks ahead by producers, writers and directors guilds? Among those raising ques-

tions about the film are Sens. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and John McCain, R-Ariz., who wrote a letter to the CIA's acting director, Michael Morell, asking him to share documents showing what the filmmakers were told. The fact that the subject of torture is so fresh and relevant in this country also complicates matters for the film.

At least one member of the motion picture academy, David Clennon, has said he will not vote for "Zero Dark Thirty" in any category because of the way it depicts torture. Fighting back after days of silence, Bigelow responded to the criticism in an article for the Los Angeles Times on Wednesday, in which she said torture was an undeniable part of the hunt for bin Laden.

"Experts disagree sharply on the facts and particulars of the intelligence hunt, and doubtless that debate will continue," Bigelow wrote. "As for what I personally believe, which has been the subject of inquiries, accusations and speculation, I think Osama bin Laden was found due to ingenious detective work," she continued. □

# Conrad Bain of 'Diff'rent Strokes' dead at 89

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Conrad Bain, a veteran stage and film actor who became a star in middle age as the kindly white adoptive father of two young African-American brothers in the TV sitcom "Diff'rent Strokes," has died.

Bain died Monday of natural causes in his hometown of Livermore, Calif., according to his daughter, Jennifer Bain. He was 89.

The show that made him famous debuted on NBC in 1978, an era when television comedies tackled relevant social issues. "Diff'rent Strokes" touched on serious themes but was known better as a family comedy that drew most of its laughs from its standout child actor, Gary Coleman.

Bain played wealthy Man-



hattan widower Philip Drummond, who promised his dying housekeeper he would raise her sons, played by Coleman and Todd Bridges. Race and class relations became topics on the show as much as the typical trials of growing up.

Coleman, with his sparkling

eyes and perfect comic timing, became an immediate star, and Bain, with his long training as a theater actor, proved an ideal straight man. The series lasted six seasons on NBC and two on ABC.

In the show's heyday, Bain didn't mind being overshadowed by the focus on the show's children. He praised Coleman and Bridges as natural talents without egos.

But "Diff'rent Strokes" is remembered mostly for its child stars' adult troubles.

Coleman, who died in 2010, had financial and legal problems in addition to continuing ill health from the kidney disease that stunted his growth and required transplants. Bridges and Dana Plato, who played Bain's teenage daughter, both had arrest

records and drug problems, and Plato died of an overdose in 1999 at age 34. Bain said in interviews later that he struggled to talk about his TV children's troubled lives because of his love for them.

After Bridges started to put his drug troubles behind him in the early 1990s, he told Jet magazine that Bain had become like a real father to him.

Bain went directly into "Diff'rent Strokes" from another comedy, "Maude," which aired on CBS from 1972 to 1978.

As Dr. Arthur Harmon, the conservative neighbor often zinged by Bea Arthur's liberal feminist, Bain became so convincing as a doctor that a woman once stopped him in an airport seeking medical advice.

At a nostalgia gathering in

1999, he lamented the fading of situation comedies that he said were about something.

"I think they got off the track when they first hired a standup comic to do the lead," he said. "Instead of people creating real situations, you get people trying to act funny."

Before those television roles, Bain had appeared occasionally in films, including "A Lovely Way to Die," "Coogan's Bluff," "The Anderson Tapes," "I Never Sang for My Father" and Woody Allen's "Bananas." He also played the clerk at the Collinsport Inn in the 1960s television show "Dark Shadows."

A native of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, Bain arrived in New York in 1948 after serving in the Canadian army during World War II. □





This Jan. 13, 2013 file photo shows actress Marion Cotillard at the 70th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.  
Associated Press

## Cotillard named Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year

**CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (AP)** — Academy Award-winning actress Marion Cotillard has been named the 2013 Harvard University Hasty Pudding Theatricals Woman of the Year. The French actress, who won the 2007 best actress Oscar for her role in "La Vie En Rose," will be honored with a parade and roast, and given her ceremonial pudding pot, at Harvard on Jan. 31. The 37-year-old Cotillard has appeared more recently in "Inception," "Contagion" and "The Dark Knight Rises." The man of the year will be announced at a later date. Hasty Pudding Theatricals is the nation's oldest undergraduate drama troupe. The awards are presented annually to performers who have made a lasting and impressive contribution to entertainment. □

## Shakira hosts shower for underprivileged kids

**NEW YORK (AP)** — What does the baby of the world's most famous Latin American singer need? Nothing, apparently. Expectant parents Shakira and soccer star Gerard Pique of FC Barcelona are inviting friends and family to join an online baby shower to benefit underprivileged children. Their own child is expected to be born early this year. A UNICEF-hosted web site invites those attending the virtual baby shower to buy gifts costing as little as \$5, which can buy a mosquito net to ensure a sleeping baby stays safe from malaria — a leading cause of child deaths worldwide. Guests can spend \$10 for polio vaccines to protect 17 children, or \$37 for a baby scale. "To celebrate the arrival of our first child, we hope that,



In this undated photo provided by UNICEF, Colombian born singer Shakira poses while pregnant.  
Associated Press

in his name, other less privileged children in the world can have their basic needs covered through gifts and donations," reads a message from the 35-year-old Colombian superstar, a goodwill ambassador for the UN children's agency, and Pique. "Thank you for sharing this unforgettable moment with us." The site also features never-seen photos of the couple, taken in December. In a black-and-white image, a shirtless, 25-year-old Pique poses with his right arm around a hugely pregnant Sharika, who wears a bikini top and hip-hugging skirt that shows off her exposed belly. A second photograph shows her in a white full-length gown that accentuates her expanding torso. □

## Winfrey, Frank Ocean among award nominees

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The film "Cloud Atlas," AMC's reality show "Small Town Security" and the New Yorker magazine are among the nominees for the 24th Annual GLAAD Media Awards. The awards are meant to recognize and honor media for outstanding images of the gay and lesbian community. The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation announced on Wednesday 120 nominees in English-language categories and 33 nominees in Spanish-language categories. Other nominees include the NBC shows "Smash" and "The New Normal," Frank Ocean for his "Channel Orange" album, the magazine People en Espanol and Oprah Winfrey's interview with Neil Patrick Harris and partner David Burtka. The winners will be announced March 16 in New York and at ceremonies in April and May in Los Angeles and San Francisco. □



This Nov. 17, 2011 file photo shows musician Frank Ocean at the 16th annual GQ "Men of the Year" party in Los Angeles.  
Associated Press



## Foreclosure Fiasco



**JOE NOCERA**  
© 2013 New York Times

It's been five days since Jessica Silver-Greenberg's article on the latest bank settlement was posted on The New York Times' website. I'm still shaking my head. Her "story behind the story" of the \$8.5 billion settlement between federal bank regulators and 10 banks over their foreclosure misdeeds illustrates just about everything that is wrong with the way the government has handled the Great Foreclosure Crisis.

Shall we count the ways?

1. It is more about public relationships than problem-solving. Pick a program – any program – that the Obama administration unveiled to help troubled homeowners over the past four years. Not one has amounted to a hill of beans. This settlement is no different. The country's primary bank regulator, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency – which, along with the Federal Reserve, engineered the settlement – is trying to make it look like a victory. Of the \$8.5 billion, \$3.3 billion will go directly to foreclosed-upon borrowers, making it "the largest cash payout to date," according to Bryan Hubbard, the OCC's chief spinmeister. (The rest of the money will consist of reduced interest payments and loan modifications.)

In truth, the OCC needed to save face after a foreclosure review process it had mandated had become an expensive fiasco. As amply demonstrated by Silver-Greenberg and American Banker, the government insisted that the banks hire expensive consultants to do a review of every foreclosure that took place in 2009 and 2010. The consultants racked up more than a \$1 billion in fees, while proceeding at such a molasseslike pace that the feds and the banks finally threw up their hands. The settlement made the whole thing go away.

2. Accountability? What's that? We have known for a long time that overwhelmed bank servicers took shortcuts, like robo-signing, that violated many state laws. They also put people through hell who were trying to get a modified mortgage. "I've seen marriages break up because of what banks put families through," says Elizabeth Lynch of MFY Legal Services. All this settlement does is push

those misdeeds under an \$8.5 billion rug.

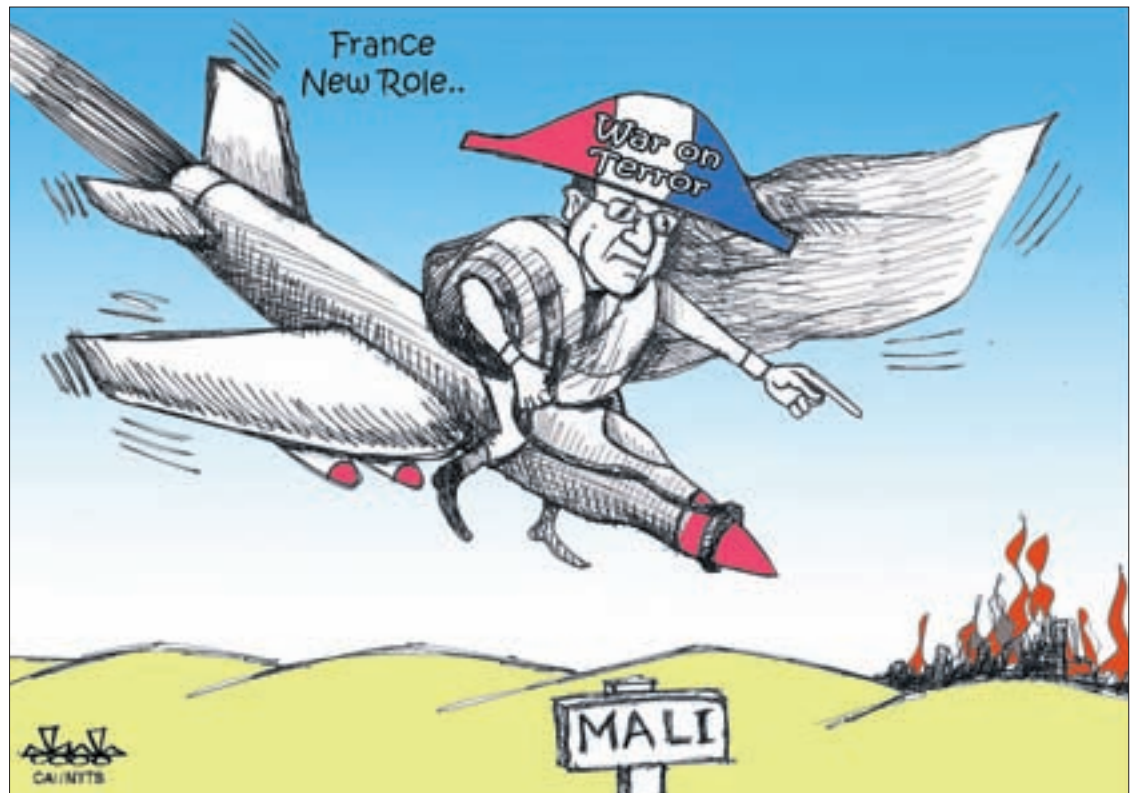
3. It won't actually help anybody. The settlement will cover some 3.8 million foreclosures. The government is going to distribute \$3.3 billion dollars. It comes to around \$1,150 per lost home.

Of course, the OCC says that is the wrong way to look at it: Some people – military personnel, for instance – could get as much as \$125,000 while others won't get much at all. People denied a modification will be eligible for up to \$40,000 or \$50,000, said Hubbard. I have no doubt that money will be welcome. But for those who lost their homes because of bank misconduct, it doesn't come close to making them whole.

4. The money is being distributed with no regard to whether a borrower suffered harm. In some ways, this is the sorriest part of the whole episode. The foreclosure review never answered the key question: which borrowers had legitimate claims against their bank and which didn't. Thus, the settlement doesn't make that distinction. If you lost your house in 2009 and 2010, you are going to get money – whether the bank was culpable or not. "The notion of error is not involved in this settlement," conceded Hubbard.

As a result, those who really were truly harmed by bank behavior will be shortchanged. As Karen Petrou, the well-known banking consultant, puts it, the government has "come up with something that gives every borrower – maybe – a pittance and leaves the truly hurt – and there were many – as much in the lurch as before." This is hardly the only time in recent months that a settlement that is publicized as righting a wrong instead hands money to people who were never victimized. Think back to the \$4.3 billion fund established by Congress to compensate people who became sick because of their exposure to toxic dust created by the 9/11 attacks. Even though there is no scientific evidence that the dust caused cancer, the government added cancer to the list of diseases that would be compensated. The result will be less money for those who truly did become sick because of their exposure to the 9/11 aftermath. Or take Toyota, which recently paid \$1 billion to settle a lawsuit claiming that an electrical flaw caused some accelerators to stick – even though there turned out to be no evidence to support that claim.

People who do these kinds of settlements regularly say that the world has become so complicated that, more often than not, it is simply too expensive to figure out who was harmed and who was not. So best just to throw a little money at everybody and make the problem go away. That is what the federal government did last week in its settlement with the banks. It's nothing to be proud of. □



## Colorado's Marijuana Muddle



**FRANK BRUNI**  
© 2013 New York Times

**DENVER** – Colorado is going to pot. It's just having a tough time figuring out how.

Although an Election Day referendum legalized marijuana for recreational use, it left questions unanswered. Like: How high can you be behind the wheel of a car? Lawmakers are debating a specific blood level, as with alcohol, above which a motorist is deemed an uneasy rider. In a restaurant or private club, might the dessert choices someday include an upscale riff on the pot brownie and a double entendre of a pot de creme? One lawyer I spoke with lofted this possibility, but who knows. State officials still have many months to draft regulations for recreational pot's retail sale, which should begin next January. The new law has already made recreational possession OK. Certainly, there will be a bigger workload for Denver's Craig Claiborne of cannabis, who began reviewing Colorado's medical marijuana dispensaries for the alternative newspaper Westword in 2009. Last month the critic, who writes under the pseudonym William Breathes, added a weekly advice column called "Ask a Stoner." For a while now, Colorado has been deeper in the weed than most other states. It permitted medical marijuana in 2000, and at dispensaries,

of which there are now hundreds, a person with physician approval can choose among a dozen or more strains of pot, which vary in strength, hue, fragrance. A dispensary named Denver Relief stocks Durban Poison, which promises a fruity aroma "with undertones of milk chocolate," and ChemDawgD, with its "strong smell of Pine-Sol and jet fuel."

There are different delivery systems as well. If a patient doesn't like to smoke, he or she can try marijuana cola, marijuana baklava, marijuana bath salts.

"The baklava is excellent," said Breathes, who has a stomach condition for which he got a medical marijuana card. (The card has his real name; his nom de plume protects him from exposure when he presents it.) But the referendum puts Colorado, along with the state of Washington, whose voters also opened the door to bong hits purely for pleasure, on new legal terrain. "This will be a complicated process," announced Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper shortly after the referendum passed. "Don't break out the Cheetos or Goldfish too quickly." These were the words of a man who had inhaled in the past – he admits as much, though he says it was 15 years ago – and seems to know something about the munchies. And they pointed to another interesting wrinkle of the Colorado story: the marijuana muddle will be tackled by a politician who rose to local prominence in the intoxication business, as the owner of popular brewpubs.

When I caught up with him here recently, he volunteered that a paleontologist with whom he's friendly believes that cannabis and hops, which are flowers used to make beer, have a shared horticultural ancestry.

"If you take hops, and you grind them up in your fingers, they smell just like what I'm told marijuana smells like," said Hickenlooper, who is 60.

"That was a joke," he added, meaning the "I'm told" part.

He actually opposed Amendment 64, the measure that legalized recreational pot, and didn't greet its passage with reefer gladness. Although it applies only to adults, he worries that kids will feel emboldened and that frequent marijuana use could hurt them.

I shadowed him for a few days, including to Colorado Springs, where he disappeared into a meeting with a local newspaper's editorial board. More of the questions he was asked touched on marijuana than on gun control, an aide said.

The next morning I arrived midway through a Q and A that he did with the Colorado Springs Regional Business Alliance, and what do you suppose he was discussing? Pot.

The alarm is confusing. For many years in many places, pot has been prevalent and its casual use often overlooked. Enforcement of laws against possession has been uneven, to a point where New York leaders want to move away from small-scale pot arrests.

Presidential candidates have felt free to allude or own up to past marijuana use. So why all the hand wringing over pot's legalization, when its illegality isn't always taken seriously? If we have a problem with pot, we sure haven't behaved that way. Colorado and Washington aren't being experimental so much as honest. They're acknowledging reality, and giving people the same chance with pot as with alcohol: to use it responsibly – or not. They'll also pick up some tax revenue in the process. And perhaps Breathes will need a co-critic. Patricia Calhoun, the editor of Westword, told me she gets applications. But, she added, they're responses to the initial announcement she posted more than three years ago.

"A lot of potheads don't move very fast," she said. □



# Cure for bad pet breath could be a toothbrush away

**SUE MANNING**

**Associated Press**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Dogs and cats can't brush, spit, gargle or floss on their own. So owners who want to avoid bad pet breath will need to lend a hand.

"Brushing is the gold standard for good oral hygiene at home. It is very effective, but some dogs and more cats don't appreciate having something in their mouth," said Dr. Colin Harvey, a professor of surgery and dentistry in the Department of Clinical Studies for the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine.

The bulk of bad breath odor — the trademark rotten egg smell — comes from hydrogen sulfide, which is waste from anaerobic bacteria that thrive without oxygen in places like gaps between teeth and gums. Plaque buildup also invites the bacteria and as the accumulation grows, so does the smell.

Animal shelters and rescues know bad breath and filthy teeth can be a deal breaker. Some shelters, such as the Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County in Florida, shuffle their charges through a dental health program before the animals are adopted out.

"We usually do dental cleanings and extractions when animals are spayed or neutered so the animal doesn't have to be put under anesthesia again after adoption and the adopter has one less thing to worry about," said Janet Winikoff, the shelter's director of education.

If a pet is already spayed or neutered, it will still get dental care before adoption, she said. Harvey added that bad breath could also be a symptom of an underlying medical problem.

Stacy Silva, Santa Barbara County Animal Services' community outreach coordinator, noted that wear on teeth could give the wrong impression of an animal's age. "(The animals) may look a lot older than their teeth, and it may just be a matter of cleaning the tartar off that gets them



In this Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013 photo, a cat named Pepper sits near the toothpaste and brush after getting her teeth brushed at home, in Phoenix. Dogs and cats can't brush, spit, gargle or floss on their own. So owners who want to avoid bad pet breath will need to lend a hand.

**Associated Press**

Harvey said that's because cats' mouths are smaller, their teeth sharper and they could care less about bonding with a human during designated tooth time. Keith said she took it slow when she began brushing the teeth of her 8-year-old greyhound Val. She started with one tooth at a time and used a foamless fla-

the likelihood of a mess. A year later, "(Val's) gums look healthy to me, and it doesn't seem she has any more tartar," Keith said. Oral care products for animals are generally not regulated by any federal agency, although the Food and Drug Administration monitors all products that claim to prevent or



In this Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013 photo, a cat named Pepper gets her teeth brushed at her home by her owner, in Phoenix. Dogs and cats can't brush, spit, gargle or floss on their own. So owners who want to avoid bad pet breath will need to lend a hand.

**Associated Press**

back looking their age and that helps them to be adopted," said Silva.

The animals that need a cleaning get chew toys or ropes, hard treats or cookies and a prescription diet if the vet orders it, she said. Harvey, who has been director of the Veterinary Oral Health Council since it was founded in 1970, said such products are good substitutes for a teeth-brushing. Pet owners can try a combination or use other products such as water additives, chew toys, plaque and tartar cleaners, and dental diets, Harvey said.

Puppies and kittens are born toothless. They get their baby teeth before they're a month old, lose them three to five months later and get their permanent teeth by age 1. Dogs have 42 teeth and cats have 30.

Toy dogs tend to have more dental problems because breeding for their smaller size hasn't caught up with evolution, Harvey said. "Primitive dogs had a standard size and shape because they were evolved from wolves" but for toy breeds, their jaw size was reduced and tooth size



This Jan. 3, 2013 publicity photo provided by the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County shows veterinary technician Aubrey Mallory checking the teeth of a six-week-old male pit bull mix named Kobe, in Vero Beach, Fla. Regular exams help spot bad breath, an early warning sign of pet dental disease.

**Associated Press**

was not, "so their teeth are too large for their mouths," he added.

Christie Keith, a communications consultant to animal welfare and veterinarian groups, said she spends about two minutes each night brushing the teeth of her three dogs after dinner. The Davisburg, Michigan, resident believes most dog owners needlessly fear brushing their dogs' teeth. "But cats are another story," she added.

vored gel that dogs can swallow.

"She started to nibble (on the toothbrush) and I rubbed it on her front teeth. I didn't make a big deal out of it. I didn't worry about brushing the first half dozen times. It was just a little bonding thing. Eventually, I brushed one tooth. Now she stands there and lets me brush all her teeth," she said.

The gel doesn't require water to rinse, lessening

slow disease. The agency does not test products that claim cleaner teeth, fresher breath or the reduction of plaque and tartar, Harvey said.

The VOHC is not a regulatory agency but it uses American Dental Association guidelines to test pet plaque and tartar products. Test requests are voluntary but companies pay nonrefundable submission and annual maintenance fees.

Products are given a VOHC seal if they pass.

The council has approved a human, ADA-compliant, flathead toothbrush with soft bristles and rounded tips for pet use. A child's brush can be used for small pets and an adult size for big dogs, but don't use human toothpaste on pets, Harvey warned.

Such toothpastes contain detergents that foam and pets will swallow it instead of spitting it out, he said.

Harvey said he can't comment on any product VOHC hasn't tested, but as a rule, any wipe, tongue cleaner or additive should be beneficial — although nothing beats brushing. □